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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

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**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Turkey To Help Arab League on Palestinian Issue

*TA0107152890 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1437 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Excerpt] Tunisia (A.A)—Adnan Umran, assistant secretary general of the organization of the Arab League, said that they expected further help from Turkey on the Palestinian issue.

In an exclusive interview in the headquarters of the organization [Tunis], Umran said that the Palestinian issue will have a special place in relations of Arab countries with the other ones, within the framework of the decisions taken by the last Arab summit.

Umran said that they expected an effective support of Turkey in this respect. However, he also voiced concern about recent claims that Turkey and Israel were having trade relations.

The claim that Turkey had economic and trade relations with Israel had been denied by the Turkish Government recently.

Umran added that these reports were closely followed by the Arab world and "we believe that the Turkish officials will evaluate the delicacy of this issue."

The assistant secretary general went on to say that if Iraq and Syria lose their hope to resolve the water issue with Turkey through negotiations, then they might apply to the league.

This move would seriously damage Arab-Turkish relations, as the Arab countries are responsible of adopting a common stand with Iraq and Syria, he said.

"We may then call on the Arab countries to review relations with Turkey. But we hope that the matter never reaches this point" he said. [passage omitted]

### Agenda for Al-Asad-Mubarak Talks Reported

*PM2906145090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jun 90 pp 1-2*

[Jamal 'Inayat report: "Al-Asad To Visit Egypt Before Mid-July; Tripartite Summit Expected; 'Arafat To Participate"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources in Cairo that the Egyptian-Syrian summit between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad will be held in Alexandria before mid-July following President Mubarak's return from Addis Ababa, where he will participate in the African summit meetings 9-12 July.

The sources said that contacts have been made between Cairo and Damascus over the past few days to set a suitable date for President al-Asad's first visit to Egypt in 13 years, which the sources said will last two days.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is expected to visit Cairo during President al-Asad's visit to Egypt within the framework of improving relations between Damascus and the PLO and clearing the Arab atmosphere and common Arab action.

Furthermore, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the talks between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad will deal particularly with ways of clearing the air between Damascus and Baghdad and will prepare for agreement to hold bilateral meetings between Syrian and Iraqi officials before convening a summit meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The sources said that the agenda of the talks will primarily include bilateral relations and ways of developing them within the framework of what was agreed during President Mubarak's visit to Damascus in May. This is in addition to the establishment of a higher Egyptian-Syrian committee presided over by the two countries' prime ministers.

The two leaders will also discuss developments with regard to the Palestinian issue, the Middle East crisis, and the results of Egypt's contacts with Italy in its capacity as new EEC duty president; developments in the Lebanese crisis in the light of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi's visit Cairo; and Syria's participation in the foreign and economy ministers meetings to be held in Cairo next month. [passage omitted]

### Arab League Secretary Receives Egyptian Message

*LD3006022290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1048 GMT 29 Jun 90*

[Text] Tunis, June 29 (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi received a message from Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

The message was delivered by Egyptian Ambassador to Tunis 'Ali Mahir. Mahir told reporters, following the meeting with Klibi, that the message dealt with the implementation of the League Council's resolution in its recent session in addition to those of the extraordinary Arab summit recently held in Baghdad.

He added that the talks also centred on the preparations for the upcoming Arab summit due to be held in Egypt by November, beside the transfer of the League General Secretariat headquarters to Cairo in implementation of resolutions issued in this respect.

### OAPEC Chairman Visits Member Countries

*LD3006121590 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Excerpts] Algiers, 30 June (APS)—A statement issued yesterday in Algiers stated that Mr. Sadek Boussena, the current Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC] chairman and Algerian minister of mines, has asked the countries which exceed their production quotas to adhere to the production levels to which they committed themselves at the recent OAPEC meetings.

In this context, Mr. Boussena began the first stage of a series of consultations which he will carry out with the concerned countries. He toured a number of Middle East countries including Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Basically, Mr. Boussena is trying to hear the various views of the member-countries and also to record their various positions in order to prepare for the coming OAPEC conference.

In this context, it was announced that the OAPEC chairman will not deal with the requests to amend the quotas, which will remain within the authority of the OAPEC ministerial conference alone.

The OAPEC chairman stressed that in these times characterized by high demand and low prices it has become necessary that every country should adhere to its level of production fixed at last May's meeting, which was approved without reservations.

The statement added that the OAPEC chairman is sure that the strict adherence to the quotas recorded in the markets is the only thing that will really prove that every country wants to restore the price to the benchmark level of $18 per barrel, and this will provide good conditions for the coming conference. [passage omitted]

### Algerian-Moroccan Follow-Up Committee Meets

*LD3006111590 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Rabat, 30 June (APS)—The Follow Up Committee of the great Algero-Moroccan joint commission met here on Thursday and Friday in order to ensure the execution of the decisions and recommendations of the great commission which met in Algiers during last January and to present proposals to the next commission which will hold its third session here during this year. The Algero-Moroccan cooperation had known an important expansion since the recapture of diplomatic relations between both countries notably in the fields of economy, commerce, air traffic, education, professional training, information, youth and sport as well as a number of other fields.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Steps Taken To Avert EC Dialogue Suspension

*PM2906145690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jun 90 p 5*

[Unattributed report: "Arab Efforts To Circumvent Attempts To Break Off Palestinian-European Dialogue"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, Washington, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An informed Egyptian source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that extensive Egyptian and Arab efforts are being made to prevent any collective or bilateral decision leading to the suspension of the Palestinian-European dialogue in compliance with the U.S. Administration's decision. The source said that these efforts coincide with the extensive contacts with Washington in order to express the Egyptian and Arab position on recent developments.

The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the mission of the Egyptian foreign minister and the director of President Mubarak's office for political affairs in Washington is a collective Arab mission. They speak on behalf of all the parties concerned with the Middle East issue.

The source added that the U.S. Administration knows that the Egyptian move enjoys collective Arab backing from all the Arab states and that the Egyptian message to the U.S. President expresses the collective Arab position and reflects the concern resulting from the suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

The source said in an exclusive statement that the Egyptian foreign minister's visit to Italy after the conclusion of his talks in the United States is designed to circumvent any collective or bilateral decision which might be made in the present period and might lead to the suspension of the European-Palestinian dialogue in compliance with the U.S. Administration's decision.

The source added that there are Israeli pressures on Europe to issue a decision via the EC states to suspend their dialogue with the PLO. This is what prompted Egyptian diplomacy to move quickly so that such a decision would not have a negative effect on the Arab-European dialogue, in which the PLO is an effective party.

The sources expect the EC role to be reactivated in the coming months, in view of Italy's presidency of the Community as of 1 July and in view of Arab-Italian relations in general and Italian-Palestinian relations in particular.

In Washington, informed sources expressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT their hope that the extensive efforts being made to find a way out of the crisis resulting from the decision by U.S. President George Bush's administration to suspend the dialogue with the PLO would produce positive results that will "help find a way out of the present difficult situation." [passage omitted]

### Memo to USSR Warns Against Israeli Statements

*JN0207110490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Jul 90 p 17*

[Text] Tunis (PETRA)—The PLO has warned the international community against the campaign of deception being carried out by the Israeli government led by Yitzhaq Shamir. In this campaign, the Israeli Government, through statements by some of its members known for their extremist and intransigent policies, is trying to falsify facts by claiming that Soviet Jewish immigrants will not be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

An official memorandum sent by the PLO leadership to USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze last Friday [30 June] says the Israeli officials' misleading statements are aimed at circumventing international demands for guarantees that no settlement will take place in the occupied territories, and at avoiding mounting international political pressure to confront the dangers of settlement to the peace process.

The Palestinian memorandum regrets the official U.S. position that the deceptive Israeli statements are a development that calls for hope and are a step in the right direction. The memorandum notes that this position provides grounds to suspect that the U.S. Administration is trying to join the Israeli Government in the campaign to mislead American and world public opinion, especially as the U.S. Administration possesses all the means necessary to verify Israel's actual activities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In its memorandum to the Soviet Government, the PLO proposes the formation of a neutral international supervisory committee to implement the international resolutions to halt settlement in the occupied territories and suspend intensive Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to the occupied territories. The PLO also proposes that the close relationship between collective emigration and a solution in the region be taken into account, asserting that the new massive immigration is a basic factor changing the strategic balance of power in the Middle East in favor of the extremist, expansionist, and aggressive forces in Israel.

The memorandum stresses the importance of associating Israel's guarantees not to settle new immigrants in the occupied territories with its commitment to allow the return of Palestinian deportees to the occupied territories, to halt forced deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories, to promptly stop the confiscation of private and public lands and natural resources—especially underground water in the occupied territories where settlements are being built—to give the Palestinians under occupation the freedom of movement and expression, to lift the heavy taxes imposed by the Israeli authorities as a means to confiscate houses and lands, and to reopen the universities, the closure of which has led to the emigration of youths so that they may pursue university studies outside the occupied territories.

## PFLP on U.S. Efforts to Reverse UN Decision

*JN0107140390 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] The deputy secretary general and official spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has issued two statements condemning the position of the U.S. Administration and President Bush, who yesterday signed the U.S. Congress' resolution calling on the United Nations to cancel its decision No. 3379 issued in 1975. The decision equates Zionism with racism.

The statements say the PFLP believes that the U.S. position expresses the U.S. Administration's full support for the most radical form of fascism and racism existing in modern times. It also shows the ugly face of the United States.

The statements urge Arab countries to do more than condemn the U.S. position and immediately to make regional and international efforts to foil this aggressive U.S. act against the Arab nation.

## Hawatimah Urges PLO To Review Peace Strategy

*JN0107141790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Tunis, 1 Jul (INA)—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has urged the PLO Central Council and the Palestine National Council [PNC] to hold two urgent sessions in order to review the PLO's policy concerning the Palestinian peace strategy.

In a statement published here today, Hawatimah stressed the need to reject U.S. conditions, to stick firmly to armed national resistance and to carry it out in accordance with the actual circumstances of the Palestinian people, and to maintain PLO unity.

He also voiced his belief that building a network of economic relations between the Arab countries and the Soviet Union on one hand and East Europe on the other, in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions, will make these states think twice about their interests and gains in the region.

Hawatimah also said that the U.S. Administration had not only required the PLO to condemn the seaborne Jerusalem operation and expel the Palestine Liberation Front, but also demanded Palestinian legislation banning armed national resistance.

### 'New Grounds' for U.S. Dialogue

*NC0107203790 Paris AFP in English 2003 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Tunis, July 1 (AFP)—George [as received] Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Sunday called for the resumption of suspended talks with the United States but on new grounds.

In a statement to Agence France-Presse, Mr. Hawatimah said Washington "should recognize the representativeness of the PLO and consider it the only direct Palestinian interlocutor."

The DFLP is a major component of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The United States should also accept the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and work to convene an international Middle East peace conference, he said.

Washington broke off its contacts with the PLO on June 20 because the organization had failed to clearly condemn an abortive Palestinian commando attack on Israel in May.

"Through that demand, Washington is trying to make all armed resistance against Israel illegal and for the PLO to condemn all such action," Mr. Hawatimah said.

The talks had not been a real dialogue but an exchange of words, he said and criticized the United States for trying to circumvent the PLO by backing a Palestinian delegation from the Israeli-occupied territories which would meet with Israeli government officials in Cairo.

## Qaddumi Appeals for New Arab Defense Pact

*LD0207111290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0951 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] Kuwait, July 2 (KUNA)—A prominent Palestinian official warned Monday against a possible Israeli aggression on Egypt and Jordan and stressed that a strong and united Arab front is needed to abort the Israeli expansionist schemes.

In a interview with "AL-WANTAN", head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi urged for concluding a new joint Arab defense pact.

He emphasized that though the new Israeli Government is going to follow a more repressive and terroristic approach, the Palestinian resistance is sure to be fiercer, wider and stronger.

Speaking about recent U.S. criticism of Israel, the Palestinian official said the American biased position to Israel has not changed, and this criticism does not represent any essential differences between the two sides but is aimed at alleviating pressure on Washington by the international public opinion.

He added that the U.S. is aimed at playing with time in order to give Israel a chance to end the Palestinian uprising.

## PLO Officials on Egypt, Intifadah, Peace Effort

*NC0107093090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0856 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani has praised President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian political leadership on all levels for their efforts to serve the Palestinian cause. He asserted that the Palestinian people living in and outside the occupied land appreciate and will not forget Egypt's and the Egyptian people's support for the Palestinian people in the calamity and predicament they face daily.

Al-Surani was commenting to a MENA correspondent on Egypt's efforts, under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak, with the U.S. Administration regarding the suspension of the American-Palestinian dialogue.

Al-Surani urged the international community and the UN to intervene immediately to curb Israel's violations of the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to determine their future and to establish an independent state on their national soil.

He pointed out that the international community must move quickly to place the Palestinians in the occupied land under international protection. He emphasized that all the countries of the world have agreed to this except Israel and the United States, which completely supports Israeli intransigence, despite statements occasionally released.

He said the United States must realize that the Palestinian people will not soften under any Israeli pressure or threats. He stressed that, despite arbitrary and oppressive acts, the Palestinian intifadah continues to burn and will continue until the Palestinian people's legitimate hopes are realized.

For his part, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, has asked the Arab countries to provide more assistance and support for the intifadah, which has entered its third year.

He asserted that the Palestinian peace strategy announced by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is a firm strategy and not a maneuvering tactic. He stressed that Israel and the United States will not succeed in making the PLO change its strategy and outlook for peace.

## 'Abd-Rabbuh on Dialogue, Arab League Meeting

*JN0107145390 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 27 Jun p 4*

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, by unidentified reporter in Tunisia, date not given]

[Text] [AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] You have called for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers. What is the purpose behind this, and what are you going to ask the Arabs to do?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We are holding contacts with all Arab capitals to hold an early meeting of the Arab League. Moreover, we are now contacting Arab countries in order to arrive at a concrete formula that goes beyond denunciation of Washington's decision to suspend the dialogue. In fact, we now intend for all Arab countries to take certain practical and political measures and positions against U.S. policy.

The Arab countries are asked to make it clear to Washington that they will not take part in any contacts, or discuss any issues related to the Palestine question and the political process unless Washington resumes the direct dialogue with the PLO, and that this dialogue should be serious and substantive.

This is the concrete expression we are expecting from the Arab countries as denunciation of Washington's decision and support for the Palestinian position.

The U.S. Administration's maneuver to replace the direct dialogue with contacts through a third party should not be allowed to succeed. The danger of this is well known; and it is the real goal of Washington's decision, based on the pretext of the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] operation. We do not think the U.S. decision has anything to do with that operation.

Second, we want the Arab countries to insist that the appropriate formula for reaching a just solution is to prepare for the international peace conference, with the participation of all parties, primarily the PLO.

Third, it should be explained in Europe and the Soviet Union that Washington's plan is not a reaction to a particular operation, but that it is a plan designed in political harmony with the new Israeli Government's plan, and that barring the PLO from participation in the political process will be met with a collective Arab position that rejects involvement in any political role or contacts unless Washington reembraces a serious, substantive dialogue with the PLO, as a preparatory step to the international conference. Explaining the gravity of this issue to various international forces is a collective Arab duty, due to the possibilities of explosion and elements of tension involved.

These are the problems on which consultation is currently taking place with Arab countries, and about which the meeting will be held.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] What do you think the U.S. objective is in breaking off the dialogue with the PLO?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Washington is seeking to halt the dialogue completely and to replace it with indirect contacts through a third party, Arab or international.

Washington's aim in taking this step is gradually to end the PLO's participation in the political process as a basic and effective party. The direct goal behind this is to respond to the conditions of the new Israeli Government, which are primarily to bar the PLO from playing a direct or indirect role and to besiege and undermine the gains achieved by the PLO in the past two years. These gains are shown in the broad international agreement that there is no way to reach a solution without the full participation of the PLO.

This aim also represents a return to the policy of Camp David, of which the primary goal is to make other parties substitute for the PLO in deciding the destiny of our people and their cause.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is one of the parties mentioned as serving as a channel between the PLO and the United States. What do you think of this?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We say it is impossible to go back. Contacts have always taken place with Washington through a mediator. However, the value of direct dialogue is that Washington recognizes the PLO as the major party in the peace process representing the Palestinian people. So, dialogue through a third party means going back on this recognition, which we categorically reject, and this is why we call on Arab countries to support us. Washington should know that its political role in reaching a settlement can never continue through trying to circumvent the PLO and its position in the political process, and that in line with Baghdad summit resolutions, the Arab countries consider the key to the solution to be through the PLO—a major party to the conflict—which represents the Palestinian people.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] What will you do if Hurd begins making his contacts?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We welcome any contacts that do not represent a substitute for direct dialogue between the PLO and Washington. Currently, there are efforts and contacts underway between us and Arab and European capitals. Our position on this is clear: We will not accept the relegation of the dialogue to the level of indirect contacts, nor to have an Arab or international party substitute for the PLO in discussing the peace process and the destiny of our people.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] After the Arab League meeting, is there an intention to discuss the latest Palestinian developments on a higher level than that of the Executive Committee?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The Central Council will meet in the second half of next month, and will review the results of Palestinian political activity and the developments in the intifadah, especially in terms of consolidating national unity inside the occupied territories against of the schemes of oppression and terrorism toward the intifadah. It will also review the means necessary to deepen the popular and democratic nature of the intifadah and to provide it with sufficient support, and in particular, to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions defining the political and material responsibilities of the Arab states; and to mobilize our people abroad to provide more support for the intifadah struggle in view of the raging confrontation against the occupation at every level, the Shamir government plan, and Washington's maneuvers.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] What about contacts with Israeli sides, and the role played by Israeli peace movements before the Shamir government?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Israeli peace forces should play a more effective role. This demands activity on a wider scale inside and outside [the occupied territories] against the dangers inherent in the Shamir government's coming to power and its aggressive, expansionist program. We will also discuss what we decided in the the Arab committee through our international contacts on emigration.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] What is your comment on Sharon's recent statements not to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Sharon's statements on not settling Soviet Jews outside the Green Line are only a smokescreen and an attempt to cover up the expansionist settlement projects being carried out at full speed inside the land of Palestine. His statements are also an attempt to alleviate their position with the Soviets, who announced through Gorbachev their intention to halt emigration if Israel continues to settle immigrants inside the occupied territories.

There is no guarantee in Sharon's statements, but in the formation of an international supervisory committee entrusted by the Security Council with all powers to ensure the halt of settlement and to prevent it inside the occupied territories.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Will you invite the Damascus factions to participate in the Central Council's meetings?

['Abd-Rabbuh] All factions affiliated with the PLO can attend the meetings. The invitation will be addressed to everybody, including figures or factions residing in Damascus.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] What happened to preparations for a new session of the National Council? Do you expect the Palestinian peace initiative to be suspended in light of Israeli recalcitrance and U.S. bias?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Calling the National Council into session will be discussed during the Central Council meeting. The PLO still holds to its approach and its policy based on the Palestinian peace initiative, and will not abandon this policy because the essence of the peace initiative is clinging to our people's right to independence, repatriation, and a balanced solution that ensures total withdrawal from the territories of our homeland in the context of an international peace conference.

We will not relinquish our peace initiative, which has expressed the essence of our national objectives, helped to isolate Israel and reveal the reality of its expansionist aims, and gained for our people the comprehensive support of world opinion.

## Khalaf Views Effects of Dialogue Suspension

*JN3006203790 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Tunis, 30 Jun (PETRA)—Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf has said that the Palestinian political and struggle action should be part of comprehensive Arab action based on a united Arab policy to confront the crisis in the Palestine question and the peace process in the Middle East.

He added that the PLO cannot confront the current situation and its various dangerous developments alone while the Israeli Government rejects all peace initiatives, prepares for war, plans massacres against the Palestinian intifadah, assassinates Palestinian leaders, and tries to implement its expansionist schemes.

In an interview with PETRA in Tunis, Salah Khalaf said that the U.S. decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO had negative effects on the Palestine question. The U.S. decision has encouraged Israel to pursue its extremist policy and step up its oppression of Palestinians. He said that the Arab people will begin, more and more, to accept extremist views on both the Arab and Palestinian levels, which are demanding a return to armed struggle, because the PLO made many basic concessions for the sake of peace, but got nothing in return from Israel or the United States other than denial and rejection of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

## Khalaf Evaluates Chances of War With Israel

*JN0107073490 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 28 Jun 90 pp 1, 16*

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, head of the Unified Palestinian Security Apparatus, has said that talk of a forthcoming war is serious and substantiated by information. He added that those who are inclined to simplify matters are ignoring the possibility that the Arabs have been targetted to receive a painful military blow.

Khalaf said war for Yitzhaq Shamir's new government is a strategic matter which cannot be abandoned, because this government believes that the solution lies in occupying part of Jordan in order to accomodate the Palestinians and resolve their issue there. Moreover, the Israeli Government believes that growing Arab might must be dealt a blow because its [Israel's] situation and plans cannot allow the Arabs to acquire new and sophisticated weapons, Khalaf added in an implicit reference to Iraqi and Syrian missiles and military capabilities.

Abu-Iyad expected that the new Israeli aggression would take place within six months. He added that if Israel were to postpone this war due to U.S. pressures, it would not prevent it from launching it later, particularly because Israel has sufficient capabilities to convince its U.S. ally of its own views.

Regarding his conceptions of the forthcoming war, the Palestinian official told AL-BAYAN that Jordan is the soft spot in the Arab front. He added that, should no Arab troops enter Jordan when war breaks out, the war will be in favor of Israel, because the troops currently deployed in southern Jordan cannot fight for more than a few hours.

He indicated that Jordan has always asked to be armed, but no Arab party responded. Therefore, the organization calls for coordination among Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and the PLO. He said that by penetrating the Jordanian front, Israel can threaten Iraq, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. This, he added, also gives it a chance to strike at Syria with less difficulty, and then strike at Iraq alone.

Abu-Iyad continued his warning, saying: Allowing Israel to strike at the growing Arab power and achieve its aims means that Israel can relax for the next hundred years. He pointed to the need to increase Iraqi-Jordanian military coordination and to begin serious Syrian-Jordanian coordination, as well as to work for peace and stability between Iraq and Iran so that the Iranian front will no longer exhaust the Iraqi power and so that Iran will become a power siding with the Arabs.

Regarding the possibility of entering the war of anti-missile missiles, Abu-Iyad said Israel, which is cooperating with the United States in "star wars," does not yet possess short-range missiles that can destroy offensive weapons in space.

Commenting on recent reports that a group of Israeli pilots are being trained in the U.S. Nevada desert on piloting the U.S. stealth aircraft and on using them to strike at the Iraqi missile pads, Abu-Iyad said everything is possible, particularly under "U.S. approval."

Abu-Iyad, however, added that all Israel is planning should not be considered as the Arabs' destiny, emphasizing that the Arab nation's success in overcoming certain technical armament problems has enabled the Arab countries to attain the level of developed countries in this regard.

In addition to the war possibilities, AL-BAYAN correspondent in Amman said that Israel is planning for another secret war and that the Palestinian security organs have managed to uncover details of a Zionist plan to assassinate certain Palestinian leaders and notables, including Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

## 'Imminent' Israeli Action Predicted in Lebanon

*JN3006074790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1835 GMT 29 Jun 90*

[Commentary by the political editor: "Imminent Zionist Aggression Requires Firm Response"]

[Text] Has the countdown for the expected Zionist aggression, especially against southern Lebanon this time, begun? Reports from the field stress that the Zionist military buildup in the region has reached a peak; drums of war are being beaten and everyone seems to be waiting for military communiques. After completing its state of readiness and assuring itself of firm U.S. support and of world preoccupation with European and regional issues unrelated to the Middle East, the Zionist enemy, in coordination with the U.S. Administration, has begun preparations to translate their common goals.

If we take into consideration the enemy assertion that the intensification of Jewish settlement in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories is a top U.S.-Zionist priority and a main factor in the relations between the big countries, especially between the United States and the Soviet Union, and that this policy is a basic feature of the U.S.-Zionist strategic alliance and a so-called cornerstone of the hoped-for peace in the region, then the time for implementation has come. It is only through aggression that these conditions for peace can be imposed.

Through a series of stances, the U.S. Administration has paved the way for this imminent aggression. The suspension of the dialogue with the PLO was nothing but a green light for the aggression because the move solely means suspension of even talk about peace. Through its maneuvers in this respect, the United States has completed the goals set for this stage, and, consequently, some bridges linking the United States with the Arab countries must necessarily be destroyed.

Zionist and U.S.-made fighter planes have begun carrying the message of threats and preparation for an act of aggression. A short time ago, the enemy army reservists were called up and enemy war minister Arens issued orders to form a guard force from among Zionist settlers with a view to tightening the Zionist grip on the valiant intifadah and the masses of our people in occupied Palestine.

There have been many signs in southern Lebanon that the Zionist enemy has completed its preparations to steal the waters of the Litani River; it has sent herds of Soviet Jews to the region to establish Zionist settlements on Lebanese territory to back up the Falasha Jews there. Clashes along the confrontation line with the Zionist enemy and its agents in southern Lebanon have also been intensified, and they coincide with inspection tours of the region by senior enemy officers and with a maximum state of readiness.

All this clearly indicates that the winds of a hot summer have started to blow on the region. The Zionist enemy will try to export its crises through a new military adventure it believes will accomplish its illusory goals. The enemy has started to show its aggressive intentions, fill the region with fighter planes, warships, and tanks, and use the language of threats.

Who will respond to this? Our brave revolutionaries know their task and position; confrontation with the Zionist enemy, whether inside or around Palestine, is their daily bread. Over long years, they have taught the enemy unforgettable lessons. Moreover, the Arab situation is experiencing a new life characterized by a growing spirit of challenge, confrontation, and hope. The Arabs will rise to the level of the required responsibility; they have no other choice but to retaliate firmly to the Zionist aggression. Hence, the enemy's expected military adventure will only meet failure and defeat.

## Islamic Jihad Calls for Stabbing Jewish Immigrants

*JN0207182290 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis distributed a statement in Palestine today entitled: "Sever the humiliating dialogue with the United States, and let gunpowder explode in the face of the conspiracy" in which it called for the following:

1. Confronting U.S. arrogance, striking against U.S. interests, and suspending all forms of negotiations and the humiliating dialogue with the United States, which is the deadliest enemy of our people.
2. The Islamic Jihad Movement calls on all our heroic workers to mount operations to stab Soviet Jewish immigrants with knives in order to confuse the enemy and sow fear in its ranks.
3. The Islamic Jihad Movement calls for armed Islamic jihad and for escalating the intifadah.

The statement also calls for the following activities:
1. 'Id al-Adhah feast days are days of comprehensive confrontation. Hold tumultuous demonstrations on these days.
2. 4 July is to be viewed as an open and monthly strike [as heard] to commemorate the passage of 33 months since the launching of the intifadah and the martyrdom of Shaykh Misbah al-Suri, the first martyr of the intifadah.
3. 7 July is to be a day of fierce confrontation in protest against the deportation decision against Muslim struggler and thinker Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi and his colleagues.
4. 20 July is a day of confrontations marking the passage of two months since the Black Sunday massacre and the anniversary of the intifadah operation carried by the heroes of the Islamic Jihad Movement in the central market in Jerusalem.

## Dispute Over Voice of Palestine Broadcasts

*LD0107135790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Let us enter another file, which was posed this morning by two newspapers—AL-SHA'B and EL MOUDJAHID—concerning the issue of the Voice of Palestine, which has been broadcast for a number of years on the waves of the Algerian radio station from 1800 to 1900 [1700-1800 GMT] in the evening. Some national papers published a report today stating that Mr. (Tahar Outtar) [as heard], director general of the national radio enterprise, has made a unilateral decision to prohibit the Palestinian technicians who supervise the Palestinian revolution's program from Algiers from broadcasting their program. The report was accompanied by a statement by Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali.

(Nabilah Khrefiyah) [as heard] this morning asked Mr. (Tahar Outtar) to explain his position. Here is what he has to say:

[Begin recording] [(Outtar)] I would like to say, first of all, that Algeria takes pride in the fact that it broadcasts the Voice of Palestine over its radio at the best hour, namely from 1800 to 1900 in the evening, and in total freedom, as this hour is considered to be a Palestinian national radio without interference from anyone or any party in the affairs of the Palestinian brethren. This is a source of pride to the Algerians and to me personally.

With regard to what has been announced and supported by the foreign ministers's statement, it is in fact a distortion of an international decision which we have made with regard to recording the Voice of Palestine and some other programs. As we have allocated a studio to Open University to broadcast in the morning and in the evening, and owing to some congestion in the studios of the central radio station, we found it necessary to transfer the recording only from the central station to Zabana, where the third channel is active, as everybody knows.

[(Khrefiyah)] Mr. Director, the measure seems to be technical?

[(Outtar)] It is a purely technical and internal measure. In other words, neither the Foreign Ministry nor the embassy, nor anybody else has anything to do with the allocation of the station's studios. To prove that the Palestinian brethren have sent me a message, which I have passed to the press, in which they threaten to stop the Voice of Palestine by striking; connecting the Voice of Palestine, the struggle for Palestine, the liberation of the Palestinian people, and conveying the voice of the Palestinian leadership to the people with the fear that we are preventing them from occupying a small office situated in the seventh floor of the building of the second channel, bearing in mind that they are the only organization among the liberation organizations that broadcast their voices from Algeria which has stormed and occupied this office without any agreement with anyone. We have given this message to the press to publish, and we do not know why they are misleading the Algerian officials by linking small personal matters, such as a telephone or the like, with fateful matters relating to the fate of the Palestinian people and Palestinian-Algerian relations. [end recording]

That, ladies and gentlemen, was Mr. (Tahar Outtar), director general of the Algerian radio station, explaining his stand with regard to what has come to be known as the issue of the Voice of Palestine from Alberia. Mr. (Tahar Outtar) today distributed to the Algerian information media a clarification in which he stressed that the question of the Voice of Palestine from Algiers was a political decision that goes beyond the competence of individuals, and that the idea of preventing the Voice of Palestine from the Republic of Algeria has crossed no one's mind.

## Mayor Frayj Reports Meeting With Israel's Arens

*PM0207105990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jun 90 pp 1-2*

[Zaki Shihab report: "Frayj Reveals Details of Meeting to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Told Arens To Find Alternative to PLO's Kind of Imagination"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Bethlehem Mayor Mr. Ilyas Frayj has revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT details of what took place at his meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens last Tuesday. He said that he had told Arens that the belief among some Israeli officials that an alternative can be found to the PLO is erroneous. [passage omitted]

Frayj told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he started the meeting by speaking about the Palestinian people's suffering over the past 70 years, in that they have fallen victim to decisions and conspiracies which they have nothing to do with. He had described that suffering as the most painful suffering that any people ever experienced anywhere. And they were still suffering. He added that all Palestinian inhabitants aspire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees security, freedom, and peace for all the region's peoples, especially the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

The Bethlehem mayor said: The Palestinian and Israeli peoples are destined to live together in these holy places; it is our duty to turn to wisdom and courage in order to find a just and comprehensive solution to this long and bitter conflict.

Frayj told the Israeli minister and his aides: The belief among some people in Israel that an alternative leadership can be found to negotiate with it on behalf of the PLO is remote from reality and is fanciful. Just as the Israeli Government represents the Israeli people in any possible negotiations, the Palestinian people's representative in any political activities is the PLO and those whom it appoints.

He went on to say: We support holding a dialogue in Cairo with U.S. and Egyptian participation in order to initiate the rapprochement process. And I repeat and emphasize that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative; it has the absolute right to appoint the Palestinian people's representatives.

Arens had answered him: I am pained by the casualties, the difficulties, and the violence. I agree with Mr. Frayj on some things and disagree with him on others. We as a government will nevertheless continue to work tirelessly to bring about peace with the Arab states and reach an agreement with the Palestinian people based on the Shamir plan, which grants the Palestinians the right to vote.

Frayj had replied: We Palestinians advocate free, impartial, democratic elections. We seek to achieve a peace that guarantees the elimination of hatred. Then he had asked Arens to reopen the Palestinian universities and release the thousands detained in Israeli prisons. So the defense minister announced that he would release several hundred of them on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. [passage omitted]

Mr. Frayj told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he had been anxious to ensure that the meeting dealt with municipal matters, because the discussion of politics is left to the PLO.

He said that the Israeli officials' aim in attending these meetings is to try to divide Palestinian ranks and foment sedition. He added: We wanted at that meeting to tell the Israeli leadership that all the occupied territories' inhabitants are unanimously agreed that the PLO is their sole representative.

## Egypt

### Rwandan President Arrives for Talks 29 Jun

*NC2906140790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1353 GMT 29 Jun 90*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a two-day official visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak was at the head of those who received the Rwandan president at the Cairo International Airport. [passage omitted]

### Concludes Visit

*NC3006130390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1103 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA)—Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and his wife left Cairo this afternoon. President Husni Mubarak and his wife saw them off at Cairo Airport. [passage omitted]

### Press Statement Details Talks

*NC3006153490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana held a session of talks at the Presidential Palace today. A press statement detailing the outcome of the talks and the visit was issued afterward.

According to the statement, the two presidents reiterated their desire to cement the ties of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between their countries in all fields. The Rwandan president expressed his appreciation for the technical assistance which Egypt supplies to Rwanda.

The two presidents stressed the need for regional cooperation, in line with the Lagos working plan and final statement. They stated that the implementation of the resolutions of the sixth ministerial meeting of the Undugo [Nile Basin countries] group will boost cooperation within this group.

Concerning African issues, the two presidents expressed satisfaction at the fact that their views concerning these issues are the same. They reiterated their commitment to strengthen the OAU.

The Rwandan president praised the fruitful efforts which President Mubarak is exerting in his capacity as OAU chairman. The two presidents reviewed the agenda of the coming OAU summit meeting and expressed satisfaction over the fact that they share the same views on the topics listed on that agenda. The also reiterated their commitment to providing all possible political and diplomatic support to the Namibian Government in order to consolidate that country's independence.

The two presidents vehemently denounced the apartheid policies of the Pretoria regime and reiterated their resolve to continue supporting the people of South Africa in their struggle to establish a just, free, and democratic political system.

The Rwandan president voiced his country's support for the mediation efforts which President Mubarak is undertaking, in his capacity as OAU chairman, between Senegal and Mauritania. The two presidents called on the governments of both Mauritania and Senegal to settle their conflict by peaceful means.

The two presidents reviewed the economic situation in Africa with great alarm and stated that an international conference should be held to settle the problem of African external debts.

As regards the Middle East problem, the two presidents reviewed the recent developments concerning that issue and called on the countries concerned to make a positive contribution to Middle East peace on the basis of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The two presidents also reviewed Arab-African cooperation in light of the principles formulated at the first Arab-African summit meeting.

At the conclusion of his visit to Cairo, the Rwandan president expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their stay in Cairo.

## Libya

### Libya-Tunisian Follow-Up Meeting Begins 29 Jun

*LD3006094190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Jun 90*

[Text] The meetings of the sixth session of the Libyan-Tunisian Joint Supreme Follow-Up Committee began in Tripoli this evening. The opening meeting was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jalud, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, and brother Hamed Karoui, fraternal Tunisian prime minister. The meeting was also attended by the brother assistant secretary of the General People's Congress, brother secretary of the General People's Committee, secretaries of the General People's Committee for Justice, Economy, and foreign trade and [on the Tunisian side] by brothers Abdelrrahim Zouari, general secretary of the Democratic Constitutional Rally; Abdallah Kallel, minister of defense; Abdelhamid Escheikh, minister of interior; and Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister of economy and finance. In addition a number of experts and technocrats in all fields from the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Tunisia also attended.

### Jallud Hosts Banquet

*LD3006172990 Tripoli JANA in English 1633 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 30, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud last night held a dinner banquet in honour of the Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui.

Present at the banquet was Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi as well as the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress, the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretaries of the General People's Committee for Justice and the General People's Committee for Economy and External Trade.

Also present at the banquet were the Secretary General of the Democratic Destourian Grouping [Democratic Constitutional Rally] Abderrahim Zouari, the Defence Minister Abdallah Kallel, the Interior Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, the Minister of the Economy and Finance Mohamed Ghannouchi, the President of the Constitutional Council Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, [and] the secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs responsible for external affairs.

Attending the banquet were the general delegate of Great Jamahiriyah to sisterly Tunisia and the Tunisian general delegate to Great Jamahiriyah and members of the Supreme Follow-Up Committee between Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

### Tunisia's Karoui Attends Meeting

*LD3006203190 Tripoli JANA in English 1641 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 30, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The meetings of the 6th session of the Supreme Follow-Up Committee between Great Jamahiryah and sisterly Tunisia held this morning in Tripoli a working session in the presence of Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and the Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui.

Present at the working session were the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress, the secretary of the General People's Committee, the General People's Committee for Economy and External Trade, the Secretary General of the Democratic Destourian Grouping Abdelrrahim Zouari, the defence minister Abdallah Kallel, the minister of the interior Abdelhamid Escheikh and the minister of the economy and finance Mohamed Ghannouchi.

Also present were the general delegate of Great Jamahiryah.

A number of experts and technicnans from both sides attended the session.

The Supreme Committee discussed and studied all issues which may enhance unionist steps between the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

### Committee Minutes Signed

*LD0107144290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the sixth session of the Supreme Tunisian-Libyan Follow-Up Committee ended in Tripoli yesterday following two days of debates. These meetings were crowned by the signing of the minutes of the meetings by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

The minutes state that citizens from the two countries may cross land borders using identity cards only. The minutes also guarantee the movement of national products without any obstacles, but they still have to be checked for health reasons, through defined channels and routes.

The minutes also stipulate the movement of capital between the two countries through defined channels, and grant citizens of Tunisia and Libya the right of ownership in each country. [passage omitted]

### Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Karoui

*LD0107144490 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Hamed Karoui, prime minister of fraternal Tunisia, and his accompanying delegation. The audience was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee.

### Follow-Up Minutes Signed

*LD0107160190 Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The minutes of the meetings of the 6th session of the Supreme Follow-Up Committee between Great Jamahiryah and sisterly Tunisia were signed last night in Tripoli.

The minutes were signed by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and the prime minister of sisterly Tunisia Hamed Karoui.

Present at the signing were the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress, the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and External Trade, the secretary general of the Tunisian Democratic Destourian grouping Abderrahim Zouari, the Defence Minister Abdallah Kallel, the Interior Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh and the Minister for the Economy and Finance Mohamed Ghannouchi.

Also present at the signing were the general delegate of Great Jamahiryah to Tunisia and the Tunisian general delegate to Great Jamahiryah and a number of experts and technicians from both sides.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud made a speech lauding the results achieved by the meetings of this session. He said 'We have conducted a frank and deep dialogue. We evaluated the current unionist steps in a manner enhancing unionist action amongst the Arab people in great [word indistinct] Tunisia'.

He made clear that viewpoints were exchanged objectively and work as one team to take practical decisions for the realisation of unionist steps. He added 'With will and determination we will give further impetus to the unionist process and set up a solid and entrenched unionist edifice. He urged all ministerial and sectional committees to work earnestly towards that end as quickly as possible and clarifying the necessary methods for the realisation of unity in social, economic and political fields.

Major Jallud called for the continuation of dialogue at all levels so as to lay down a timetable 'which may fulfill our objectives and will as soon as possible hand on clear and deep bases so as to be able to complete unionist action especially at a time unionist and nationalist [words indistinct] are dominating political action and analysis hence reflect a culture which will transform into political will.'

Major Jallud for the great Al Fateh revolution and the 7th November [words indistinct] tasks of the Arab [words indistinct] distinctive and prominent marks [word indistinct] its history, they must formulate the will of the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia in a unionist action and provide the example for the nationals of the Arab nation from the ocean to the gulf.

Also the Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, on his part, made a speech expressing deep thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his delegation. He hailed the positive results reached by the Supreme Follow-Up Committee in its 6th session towards the realisation of the aspirations of the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah [words indistinct] for unity.

He pointed out the proceedings of this session focused on clearness and frankness and objective process so as to be able to accomplish the sought after objectives and for this end we charged the specialised agencies to [word indistinct] depth into more issues and provide the necessary studies which may enhance unionist steps between the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

He added the challenges we are facing do not permit us to be slow and we must stress the determination for unionist action so as to accomplish the aspirations of unity being the sole solution for progress and development.

### Industrial Cooperation Agreement Signed With Egypt

*LD3006150490 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Minutes of an agreement for joint action and cooperation in all industrial fields were signed recently between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Egypt. The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Light Industries and Engineer Muhammad Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab, fraternal Egypt's minister of industries. The minutes of the agreement stipulated surveying the two countries' factories as well as improving their production and maintenance and to set up joint groups of action to examine bilateral plans and programs for cooperation in light industries.

## Sudan

### Uganda's Museveni Favors Peace Talks With Rebels

*EA3006195090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1645 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 30 June (SUNA)—President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda has reaffirmed the good relations between his country and Sudan. President Museveni in press conference, Saturday [30 June] said relations between Sudan and Uganda were at their best and that no differences existed between them. He said his country will export tea and coffee to the Sudan while it will import sugar and salt from Sudan, in addition to other commodities within the trade protocol signed last year.

President Museveni, who left here today after the press conference, had participated in the celebrations marking the first anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution.

President Museveni, in response to a SUNA question, said his country is backing an Ethiopian initiative aiming for a peace talk encounter between the government and the rebel movement of John Garang. He said his government would boost the initiative and (?help) removing African conflicts.

President Museveni, 46, said the security situation on Sudanese-Ugandan border was calm and normal. President Museveni has meanwhile refuted news of rebel presence in his country. He said monitoring team from Sudan was currently in the Uganda in addition to checkpoints to follow up any developments.

The Uganda official pointed out that Israeli infiltration in Africa was a result of inter-African conflicts. He said African leaders should do away with marginal issues and concentrate on essential questions. He said diplomacy was the best means to end conflicts in Africa. He said Israel was profiting from inter-conflicts and technology gap to commit its atrocities against Palestinian civilians.

Meanwhile, President Museveni pointed out that water problems, if any, should be reviewed between the concerned sides.

Asked about inefficiency of the OAU, President Museveni said efforts should be doubled to strengthen the OAU and its various bodies.

### Al-Bashir: Museveni Ready To Mediate

*EA3006195890 Khartoum SUNA in English 1722 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 30 June (SUNA)—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has expressed readiness to mediate between Sudan's Government, rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and Ethiopia within the framework of achieving peace in south, declared Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council]. Gen. al-Bashir said today a proposal [was] currently under discussion to hold a meeting for the Intergovernmental Authority for the Combat of Drought and Desertification (IGADD) with the aim of liquidating disputes among the countries of the region. Gen. al-Bashir said he reviewed with Museveni bilateral relations and ways of their promotion, in addition to activating trade between the two countries and coordination in the expected summit of the OAU.

## Kuwait

### Government Denies Knowledge of Kidnapper

*PM0207115390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jun 90 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Official tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Have No Information About Palestinian Involved in Kidnapping of Shaykh Salman"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Kuwaiti official yesterday denied that his country could have arrested a Palestinian citizen on charges of involvement in the kidnapping of a ruling family member and his son in the Philippines last year.

The Kuwaiti official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The Kuwaiti Government has no information about this matter, nor has anyone else any information in this regard.

He pointed out that the higher authorities in the state had asked the Foreign Ministry for urgent information on the matter.

On Monday REUTER quoted diplomats in Manila as saying that Kuwait had asked the Philippine Foreign Ministry to help it in the search for Shaykh Salman al-Sabah and his 10-year-old son, who disappeared in the Philippines in July last year and are believed to have been kidnapped. [passage omitted]

## Oman

### 'UMAN Article Views Dialogue Suspension

*PM0207162790 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 24 Jun 90 p 9*

[Article by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Muwafi: "Negative Aspects of Suspension of U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue"]

[Excerpts] Regardless of the first reactions to the decision, announced by U.S. President Bush, to suspend the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue until the PLO provides a satisfactory explanation to the United States about the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] raid on the Tel Aviv beach and takes disciplinary action against the decision, its timing—following a long period of consideration and investigation—demands that we pause over it a little. Not only because it raises many expectations about its adverse impact on conditions in the region in the period ahead, but also because the way it was made and the atmosphere which preceded and surrounded it tend to suggest a U.S. inclination toward pursuing a specific approach to the regional parties in the Middle East conflict at this stage and to offer an occasion to further clarify the U.S. position toward the PLO, albeit via open U.S. statements. [passage omitted]

Regardless of the pressures exerted by the Zionist lobby inside and outside Congress and in some U.S.-Palestinian political system institutions, especially regarding U.S. decisions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict, President Bush's announcement of the decision to suspend the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue reflects two important points: First, the decision was taken and announced at the highest level in the U.S. Administration, which reflects the degree of attention given to the subject and the way it was dealt with. It is worth mentioning that the same attention was apparent when Washington decided to hold a dialogue with the PLO in December 1988. Second, the decision is to suspend the dialogue, that is, to stop it temporarily, not to break it off or stop it completely as requested by Israel and some other U.S. circles. This means that the U.S. Administration has chosen a middle position in its dealings with that issue: It has not completely ended the dialogue, but has suspended it temporarily. More importantly, it has emphasized its eagerness to restore the dialogue immediately—that is, of course, if the PLO responds. And although the outcome is virtually known, the action looks more like a way of exerting pressure than a response to Israeli or Jewish wishes or pressures inside the United States. It has to do with appearance more than essence. [passage omitted]

The decision to suspend the dialogue raises once again the meaning of terrorism as seen by Washington and Tel Aviv on the one hand and by international law, the PLO, and the United Nations on the other. It is known that there is a big difference between terrorism and armed resistance to military occupation, which is a right endorsed by international charters, especially the 1949 Geneva conventions. But why the concentration on one side of the picture? Why are armed resistance actions against the Israeli occupation—not civilians—described as terrorism, while the organized Israeli terrorism in the occupied territories is totally ignored?

If the objective of the decision to suspend the dialogue is to try to protect Israel against any land, sea, or air—as happened when a glider was used once—fedayeen operations, obviously it is difficult to achieve. Not only because provocative Israeli practices are continuing and escalating against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, but also because Israel's stances and policies focus on dashing the Palestinians' hopes vis-a-vis any just settlement or any gains that would realize their hopes of establishing an independent Palestinian state. And with despair, the door is open to any actions, even individually or in violation of the PLO's general position.

The only way to really protect Israel against any fedayeen operations is to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. That peace cannot be an Israeli peace. And obviously the intermediary—if there is one—cannot support one of the parties to the conflict all the time. [passage omitted]

It is notable that U.S. President Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker have made important statements regarding the PLO and its role in the peace process and the Middle East settlement.

And regardless of many people's view of these U.S. statements, particularly in the region, such statements would not have been made had they not been accompanied by the decision to suspend the dialogue. This is because the decision to suspend the dialogue, which was a response to an existing and continuing Israeli demand, has stopped the Israelis from making comments and paying attention to the other side of Bush's statements, or has perhaps made them view the statements within a certain context. Anyway, Bush's renewal of his opposition to settlement in the Arab territories occupied in 1967 cannot be totally ignored.

This is in addition to his praise of 'Arafat's steps and the benefit of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue as well as his statement that peace in the region should be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle stipulated in them—the land-for-peace principle—and on Israel's security and the Palestinians' political rights. This is the most complete formula thus far on the part of the United States for achieving peace in the region.

As for James Baker, he emphasized the importance of the PLO's role in the peace process and the need for its agreement in holding any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue—which is an evaluation of the PLO's role and 'Arafat's role as well.

Anyway, the period ahead will be very sensitive regarding the situation in the Middle East and the possibilities of achieving peace in it. And the road to be followed by the region will depend on events in that period. And whether tension escalates from within or from outside of Israel, just and lasting peace will remain the option for which all parties must work and bear difficulties and sacrifices. And that peace cannot be achieved through the method of imposing positions, dictating conditions, or denying the Palestinian people the internationally recognized basic rights.

## Saudi Arabia

### Pilgrims Killed in Overcrowded Mina Tunnel

*LD0207125190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1115 GMT
2 Jul 90*

[Text] Mina, 2 July, (SPA)—An official source at the Interior Ministry made the following announcement to SPA: Today, Monday, at 1000 Hours while thousands of pilgrims were coming and going in large crowds in al-Mu'aysam tunnel in Mina, the pressure—which was beyond the capacity of the tunnel—led to overcrowding as a result of which a number of pilgrims died and others fainted.

The source further said: Ambulances and emergency and safety teams were rushed to the entrance and the exit of the tunnel to reduce the overcrowding and ease the circulation of pedestrians within it. First aid was given on the spot to those who fainted.

### King Expresses Condolences

*LD0307091890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT
2 Jul 90*

[Text] Mina, 3 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received at Mina Palace this evening the commanders, officers, and staff of the pilgrimage security forces who had come to greet him on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

During the reception, the Custodian of the two holy Mosques addressed his military sons. Following is the text of his address: [passage omitted]

First and foremost, on this blessed occasion to which we have become accustomed each year, I very much regret the incidence of deaths that were mentioned by the director of security and were caused by excessive overcrowding at one of the crowded places. This is God's will; had the victims not died where they did, they would have died elsewhere and at the same time anyway.

I do not think anyone doubts that the government, people, and responsible authorities of this state did everything they could as far as the provision of comfort and stability to the pilgrims is concerned.

However, what is beyond anyone's control is how the pilgrims follow the instructions issued by the relevant authorities. Such instructions and routes had been given to vehicles and pedestrians. Once again I say: This is God's unavoidable will, but among the preventive measures that could have been taken would have been to follow the instructions that were issued a long time ago. Perhaps had it been God's will for this not to happen, then it would not have happened.

Given that this accident was not a premeditated one, I think that every Muslim in this place and this blessed spot would join the government and people of this country in mourning what happened today. The accident was God's will and the victims—God willing—will be martyrs; condolences to the victims' families; gratitude to those who served the pilgrimage; the Kingdom does everything possible to serve the pilgrims, and the latter should help by following the instructions issued in their own interests; wishing the audience well in their lives.

## United Arab Emirates

### Saudi Message Discusses Oil Market Stability

*JN3006105790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT
30 Jun 90*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 JUN (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from his brother Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The message deals with the oil market and ways to achieve its stability. It is part of the consultation and coordination between the two leaders for the well-being and common interest of all. His Excellency Dr. Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources of Saudi Arabia, conveyed the message when the president received him here this morning.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources, and Muhammad 'Abdallah al-'Utaybi, Saudi ambassador to the UAE.

## Diplomatic Relations Established With Namibia

*JN0207145090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA)—Iraq and Namibia have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level from today. This came in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today. The statement reads:

Out of the common desire of the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Namibia to bolster relations of friendship and cooperation between them, they have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level as of 2 July 1990.

This announcement stems from the two countries' readiness to establish relations based on the principles of the UN Charter and mutual respect for sovereignty and equality.

## Red Crescent Relief Supplies Arrive in Tehran

*JN0207183990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] Tehran, 2 Jul (INA)—A special Iraqi aircraft carrying relief aid has arrived in Tehran. The aid is provided by the Iraqi Red Crescent Society to assist people afflicted by the earthquakes that recently hit Iran.

Prior to the departure of his delegation, the head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society told INA that the relief aid sent to Iran is in line with the society's humanitarian objective to provide relief and assistance to those affected by natural disasters.

He said the relief aid, which includes blankets, tents, clothing, foodstuffs, and detergents, is a contribution from Iraq to help those affected by the earthquakes.

He explained, moreover, that he had sent a message to head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society telling him that the Iraqi Red Crescent Society is ready to provide any assistance and help to the Iranian people.

## Bulgarian Economic Relations Minister Departs

*JN0207054090 Baghdad INA in English 0955 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Baghdad, July 1, INA—Mr. Petur Bashikarov, Bulgarian minister of external economic relations left Baghdad this morning at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the minister chaired his country's side to meetings of the 21st session of joint Iraqi-Bulgarian committee for economic, commercial, scientific and technical cooperation.

In a statement to INA, the Bulgarian minister said that the committee, concluded here yesterday, discussed issues on aspects of developing bilateral relations in field of economy, trade, finance and sciences.

## Paper Views Mideast Situation, U.S. Policy

*JN0207135590 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] Baghdad, July 2, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad stressed that Washington bias to the Zionist entity was not confined to the economic, political, information and military assistance under the mask of preserving its security. It said that this assistance continued flowing to this entity by the United States throughout the past years.

It added that this bias was linked with Washington objective in imposing conditions on the Arab nation and said that such policies and behaviours could only be interpreted as part of the imperialist aspect and in having the desire of custodianship and dictating conditions on the Arabs against the unlimited backing to Tel Aviv.

The daily described the American policy as being characterised by short-sightedness and focused on disregard of the peoples and nations options and right in building their life and protecting their rights, interests and security.

Another daily AL-JUMHURIYAH said the United States policy which is hostile to the Arab and the Palestinian people paves the way and provides atmospheres for a new Zionist aggression on the Arab nation.

The daily said that this new aggression was after diverting the procedure of international efforts to face a new situation that could be created by this new aggression.

It said that the required and sound attitude during such conditions was represented not by talking to the U.S. Administration in words but through its interests and pointed out that maintaining security of the U.S. iinterests would urge the United States to continue challenging the Arabs and harming their issues of destiny.

The daily further said that the U.S. Administration should understand that the era of relaxation and courting has gone once and for all and that a new Arab era has started and represented by Iraq's achievement of important steps along the path of scientific and technological development.

It added that the balance of power in the region was no more in the interest of Tel Aviv as it was before.

It added that the U.S. Administration and Tel Aviv were aware of President Saddam Husayn's announcement that if Israel strikes Iraq or the Arabs then Iraq would retaliate and that if they think that they were able to use the atomic weapons then they should remember that Iraq possesses the binary chemical weapon which is capable of harming it.

The Iraqi paper further added that the Arabs have deterrent weapons and means that ensure the required reply to any aggression the Zionist enemy could mount against any Arab country.

It stressed that rulers of Tel Aviv were well aware of President Husayn announcement that could be effectively implemented if those rulers think of mounting any aggression against any Arab country.

## WALL STREET JOURNAL Interviews Saddam

*JN0107095890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by THE WALL STREET JOURNAL correspondent Karen Elliott House on 26 June]

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA)—[House] Thank you, Your Excellency. I have been on a visit to the Middle East throughout this decade. I always hoped to meet your excellency. I am very glad to have this opportunity realized.

[Husayn] Welcome.

[House] I want to thank you again for the time you are giving me in this meeting.

[Husayn] Welcome.

[House] As I have said, I came immediately from Amman, where I listened to King Husayn saying that events in the region are similar to the circumstances which prevailed prior to 1967. King Husayn believes the Israelis are now planning to set a trap for the Arabs. Do you see the situation like this, or do you have anything else to say? If not, would you give us your viewpoint?

[Husayn] Brother King Husan enjoys experience in viewing events. In addition, Jordan is located on the contact line with Israel. Moreover, from his position as a king who experienced the events of the pre-1967 war, he can make such a comparison. However, I agree that some of the circumstances are similar to the events of 1967, not only in terms of Israel's endeavor to set a trap for the Arabs, but also in terms of the assistance provided by some Western countries to facilitate Israel's quest to accomplish this aim. Leading those who are doing so, we believe, is the United States. Naturally, however, we say that 20 years have passed since 1967; and therefore, many developments have taken place. The Arabs, for instance, have become more aware and more accurate. This time, Israel has to make precise calculations and not to measure things according to what happened in 1967. At the same time, we think that some Arabs should be more cautious so as not to provide Israel with a pretext for action under a certain cover.

[House] Do you not believe that you are one of those Arabs who are being cautious in order not to give Israel any justification or pretext?

[Husayn] We think Iraq is pursuing a correct policy. Moreover, Israel, along with the United States and Britain, through bilateral and trilateral coordination, are the ones who have opened fire on the Arabs and Iraq. Their explicit objective behind launching this campaign is to bring the Arabs to their knees. They must have thought of the situation as follows: Iraq has emerged out of an eight-year war; the economy of Iraq has surely been affected by the war; the people of Iraq are surely in a psychological situation which does not allow them to assume a new confrontation; and the Iraqi leadership is surely exhausted by eight years of confrontation and fighting. However, Iraq, as seen by Western-Israeli eyes, along with its brother Arabs, possesses the factors of capability needed to strongly demand the return of usurped Arab rights. The West and Israel also believe that if Iraq is left without a war, it will develop in all areas to form a sound example for the Arabs.

Hence, as we think, they believe that this and not any other time is the proper time for attacking Iraq to break Iraq's strength. Then, they envisage that Iraq would be either brought to its knees or forced into a confrontation in which it and the Arabs would be weak. If Iraq, the country which fought capably and enthusiastically for eight years, were to be brought to its knees, they believe that no Arabs would be able to talk any more of usurped rights. And then, Israel, in coordination with the United States, can impose total hegemony on the region and force its policies in all spheres. But, they are mistaken and their calculations are extremely erroneous. Consequently, you can tour Baghdad and other places and ask Iraqis randomly and without any prior arrangements to know for yourself that the morale of Iraqis right now is higher than it is on the day before a confrontation.

This does not mean that the Iraqi people do not seek peace. He who fights for eight years knows the value of peace. But he who fights for eight years also knows the value of freedom, the value of dignity, and the value of honor. It is only natural for him to reject custodianship, to reject expansionist policies and covetousness, and also to reject capitulation on the pretext that occupied Palestine has become a thing of the past.

[House] Mr. President: You are saying that Israel, along with some Western states and primarily the United States, with the help of Britain, considering the well-known special alliance binding the United States to Britain—Israel, the United States, and Britain—are calculating that Iraq has become exhausted and war weary and so forth and so on. They calculate that Iraq would either challenge Israel if it attempts something or fail to face Israel after this protracted war.

[Husayn] They calculate that Iraq will either be defeated or fail to respond. They calculate that it might succumb and thus accept U.S. and Israeli terms, or that it would be unable to reply if Israel attacks it.

[House] Mr. President: You are saying that they are mistaken about this?

[Husayn] Exactly, and successive events have proven that they are mistaken. Moreover, they have also shown that Iraq will confront if it has to. Iraq has announced this clearly and said that it will not be alone in such a confrontation. Iraq said that the Arab nation will be with it in this confronation. This has been affirmed by the Baghdad summit conference, the popular Arab conference held in Baghdad, and the Islamic conference held in Baghdad.

[House] Mr President: Are you concerned by the likelihood that Israel might attack Libya, for example, to see whether Iraq will respond? Or is the greater likelihood for you an Israeli attack targeting Iraq?

[Husayn] The only thing that we are concerned about is to see the course of events go against our wishes regarding the need for peace and security in the region. We have made our stand clear whether Israel attacks Libya or any other Arab state. We believe that Israel might entertain the idea of attacking an Arab state other than Iraq to test the Baghdad summit resolutions and Iraq and to address a message saying: Here, we have hit Libya. By virtue of the fact that Libya does not possess the weapons which are in Iraq's possession, Libya will not be expected to retaliate against Israel.

I am here speaking about Israel's calculations. However, we know that Libya possesses planes and possibly missiles too. I would like to say again that it [Israel] believes that if it carries out an assault against Libya or other Arab states, the Arabs, including Iraq, will not retaliate. Hence, if it attacks Iraq after attacking Libya, Iraq would stand alone, considering that Israel will have set a precedent with its attack on Libya—the attack which failed to elicit the solidarity of both Iraq and the Arabs.

Because in the Baghdad summit the Arabs have asserted that their security is one and that they are committed to the Collective Arab Defense Pact, and in light of other practical reasons and principles, we say: Yes, Iraq will respond to Israel if it attacks Libya.

The Americans might ask: What has Iraq to do with Libya, what has Saudi Arabia to do with Libya, or what has Egypt to do with Libya? We consider ourselves one nation the way the Americans think they are one people, although they come from different nationalities, and the way they think every American is concerned with the defense of any U.S. state when attacked, although the United States is made up of many states. The Americans do this out of their feeling that their security forms a single component. Moreover, the United States fought with Europe out of the feeling that the United States' security and that of the allies became a single component, and that if the Axis countries were to overpower the Allies, they would be able to deal with the United States on its own. Hence, we as Arabs think our security is one, and that if Libya is attacked and we remained silent, the next attack would be against Iraq. However, if the Arabs demonstrate solidarity with Libya and if those who possess military capability unite to respond to Israel, then in case of an Israeli attack on Iraq at any time, the Arab reaction will be much stronger and solidarity with it higher. And you will find then that Arab citizens, even those living in the United States and Europe, will fight the war as if they are at the battle's frontline.

[House] I do not wish to cause a war in this meeting.

[Husayn] I do not believe that he who has not decided on war will depend on material published in a newspaper to do so. For, war is bigger than an issue to be decided in light of a single interview with a world newspaper.

[House] What I am simply trying to do is to classify what is being said about the region. Do you think your speech at the Islamic Conference in which you reasserted that you will answer if you were attacked—and you have reasserted this on more than one occasion—will be a deterrent to Israel, or could it be the poker that will stir the fire under the ashes?

[Husayn] At any instance, Israel is aggressive and sinister, and its policy is based on expansion and aggression. Israel did not threaten or strike at Iraq alone. It struck at Tunisia, occupied Lebanon, and is still occupying it. The Zionist lobby in America has held a conference, which has an impact on the official circles in the United States. It has been said clearly that the borders of Israel are not the same as those of old Israel. They said that these borders now should be the borders which can be defended in light of the advancement of the Arab military capability, including Iraq's.

I told a colleague of yours two days ago that if she goes to Jordan and asks for a map of Jordan, King Husayn can provide her with one. I also told her that if she asks us for one, we will provide her with a map of Iraq which can be obtained everywhere. The same applies to Egypt or Syria. However, I do not believe she can get an official map of Israel signed by the Israeli Knesset or Government defining the final borders of Israel.

Which, then, is the aggressive party? Is it the party that is asking for its legitimate rights in accordance with international laws, or the one which still deems the area around it as a lebensraum needed for its security and life?

I have not seen the U.S. press launching a campaign against the notion that Israel's borders should expand in accordance with the Zionist lobby's logic, which is tied to the latest Israeli prime minister's plan.

If they have prepared such plans, then aggression will be inevitable and confrontation will take place. This has nothing to do with the Arab desire for peace, but is an inevitable condition in accordance with the Israeli logic. Those who want peace to be established must resist the Israeli slogan of aggression and expansion. At the same time, the usurped Palestinian rights should be restored and the region should be cleared of all weapons of mass destruction, be they chemical, nuclear, or biological, as a prelude to reducing the arms race, including traditional weapons, in the future.

We believe that he who wants peace should work in accordance with this approach, which is a legitimate one because the United States and the Soviet Union are working according to the same logic in their bilateral relations. The world supports them in these steps. Therefore, these are the standards to be followed if one wants peace.

[House] You say, Mr. President, that war is inevitable unless Israel is convinced of the need to abandon its expansionist policies.

[Husayn] The war is not an Arab slogan but is clearly an Israeli slogan. Irrefutable proof of this is the formation of the new Israeli Government.

From the Arabs' viewpoint, peace is the natural law of life. They adhere to this law. At the same time, this peace should be coupled with their full rights, including the Palestinians' right to their land and their right to establish their independent state on their national soil.

[House] Do you think that the reduction in the U.S.-Soviet tension had an effect on the Middle East, and if so, has this reduction made this region more stable?

[Husayn] Naturally we support the cancellation of the cold war formulas between the Soviet Union and the United States, and hence between the so-called East and West. However, the internal Soviet developments and the end of the cold war between the two superpowers had both positive and negative effects on the region. The positive are much more numerous than the negative. We discussed this subject in the Amman summit of the Arab Cooperation Council states and also in the recent Baghdad Arab summit and our remarks in this regard were broadcast. It is positive because it will make the Arab world a single part and not divided into two parts following the East and the West. It has robbed the United States of the pretext that it should form an axis for itself in the Arab homeland to face the communist threat and accuse those who demand their rights of being under Soviet influence. The doubts and obsessions which were created among the Arabs because of East-West disputes are now very much reduced.

The negative effect is that the United States is now clearly capable of putting pressure on the Soviets to prevent them from taking a position that contradicts U.S. strategy in the region. The United States now believes that it can shape things in the region at will and that by its alliance with Israel, it would be able to silence any voice demanding right and justice. This conclusion is not being drawn for the first time. We drew it earlier in Amman. Now the U.S. officials themselves say this. The alliance with Israel now is not meant to defend rights with humanitarian aspects pertaining to the Jews, as the slogans claimed in the past. The U.S. interests now require a higher form of alliance between the United States and Israel so that the U.S. interests will be promoted in accordance with what the United States thinks and not in accordance with a balanced approach to legitimate interests of the Arabs and the United States. This is a dangerous transformation in the U.S. stand. We in Iraq are not surprised by the this transformation because we deduced it earlier. Now it is being felt. I believe all the states in the region should rethink their calculations to be able to live in dignity and safeguard their legitimate rights. This is not a call for withdrawal into oneself. It is a call for openness that is capable and guarded with genuine resources.

[House] Your Excellency the president: Do you consider yourself the leader of the Arabs in these circumstances in which the two camps have abandoned their desire to lead their groups or influence them?

[Husayn] We made it clear in the first conference of the Arab Cooperation Council held in Baghdad: Our leader is no one of us; our leader is the position which is created as a result of the interaction of our views and which enhances and develops our situation to what is better in the service of the causes of the Arab nation and Arab interests. We have made this clear on more than one occasion. Therefore, Iraq is now assuming its pan-Arab responsibility without any deviation or desire to dominate others or cancel their role. We are all responsible for straightening out wrong stands and opinions, and praising correct stands and blessing and encouraging the most advantageous actions and stands.

[House] Would we be accurate to say that there is now a better state of Arab unity in comparison with the past 20 years?

[Husayn] Regardless of the situation of the Arabs 10 or 20 years ago, we say that the Arabs were united at the Baghdad summit toward the decisions they adopted. Before the convening of the summit and the issuance of its decisions, however, the Arabs had proclaimed stands in accordance with the thinking of every Arab state. But we decided at the Baghdad summit to proceed from points of agreement and not to contradict these.

[House] Was Egypt a party to this recent summit?

[Husayn] Of course, and a vital one.

[House] Suppose a new war breaks out in the Middle East—let us say for a day, a month, or a year. Will this situation remain the same? Can Egypt carry on with the peace process with Israel in isolation from the Arabs' decisions made at the Baghdad summit?

[Husayn] We have said peace is the slogan of all Arabs. Therefore, any Arab defending himself does not mean he opposes peace. What this means, however, is that he does not want capitulation before any aggression. Egypt is part of the Arab nation, and a member state of the Arab League. The Arab League headquarters is now in Egypt. The Arabs have also signed the Collective Defense Pact. Moreover, the Arabs have reaffirmed during the recent Baghdad summit their adherence to this pact, and Egypt was one of them. Therefore, if a war breaks out as a result of Israeli aggressiveness and expansionist policy, it will be only natural for all Arabs to fight this aggressiveness. If this war, however, lasts only for a day or two or even a week, we cannot expect all the Arabs' capabilities and positions to be at hand on the battlefields because of the huge expanse of the Arab nation and the fact that the Arabs are 21 states. When the confrontation is protracted, however, there will not be a single Arab with no desire to contribute to the fighting or an Arab who can refrain from contributing to the fighting.

That is why we stated loud and clear at the Baghdad summit that Israel in its previous wars used to capture from the Arabs valuable objectives as soon as possible with the least loss. This has helped Israel to expand and continue with its aggression. Therefore, if Israel commits an aggression, the confrontation with it should be—in fact Iraq thinks it must be—protracted, provided that the Arabs agree on and do not oppose this strategy.

If the confrontation is protracted, it will have an outcome other than that which Israel used to achieve by its aggressiveness and wars with the Arabs.

[House] How could a war be protracted nowadays if one of the two parties possessed the nuclear weapon and a small population?

[Husayn] We have expressed our opinion. The Arabs now are in possession of weapons that are appropriate for a small population if the bigger population were attacked.

[House] What weapons do you mean?

[Husayn] On 2 April, we said—and this caused a big fuss—that if Israel attacks the Arabs and uses nuclear weapons, then Arabs will be able to use chemical weapons and Iraq will be at the forefront of the Arabs' capabilities in this regard.

[House] Does Your Excellency believe this constitutes a deterrence?

[Husayn] Yes. We believe so. But, why did America not express concern before that time. Why did it not remember the basis of freedom and human rights when it, and others in the West, enabled Israel to possess nuclear weapons? I do not want you as an American to answer me, because I know you cannot answer me out of fear of the Zionist lobby. But, do you not believe that the West committed a major crime when it enabled Israel to possess nuclear weapons in the region.

[House] Then you believe this could not have been achieved without full backing from the United States?

[Husayn] If it was achieved without the U.S. support, there would have been a big fuss about it, like there was about weapons less effective and dangerous than the nuclear bomb. I read your papers and follow you media, and I have not seen a campaign against Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. However, I read in 1986 for example—and on other occasions afterwards—reports about Israel's possession of nuclear weapons as if these Western newspapers wanted to frighten the Arabs to make them offer more concessions.

This is what had happened. But, when we said: If Israel attacks Iraq with nuclear weapons, then it must remember that we are in possession of the binary chemical weapon and we are determined to respond to it, all hell broke loose and this was considered a threat. Were we supposed to leave our people knowing that Israel has nuclear weapons so that they can surrender and say: We must consider Palestine a thing of the past and we must succumb to Israel's orders and there can be no other position to adopt?

[House] I have read an interview which Your Excellency gave to Barbara Walters in 1981 after Israel attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor. In answer to a question by the journalist on whether or not you plan to rebuild the reactor, you said that Iraq can use its resources to rebuild the reactor and will not need anybody else. Are your scientists approaching the point where they can provide Iraq with the nuclear capability? Do you believe that the phase for nuclear capability is due now after Iraq's chemical capability has been achieved?

[Husayn] Regarding the Tammuz reactor which Israel attacked, you know that it was used for peaceful purposes and not to manufacture nuclear weapons. That reactor was not made by Iraq, but by France. The French, and the competent official parties responsible for nuclear energy in the world, have said that this reactor was not meant to produce nuclear bombs. There is a difference between manufacturing nuclear bombs and peaceful uses of the atom. We have always said we will work to acquire nuclear reactors to serve Iraq and the Arab nation for peaceful purposes. It was not, and is not our policy to use these reactors for military purposes.

[House] Then, Your excellency is saying that there is no need for Iraq to acquire a nuclear capability?

[Husayn] Now, Iraq is in possession of the binary chemical weapon. According to our technical, scientific, and military calculations, this is a sufficient deterrent to confront the Israeli nuclear weapon. However, it is only natural that nobody can say that the binary weapon is exactly equal in impact to the nuclear weapon.

[House] Even if it was sufficient for this phase, and even if it was not equal to the nuclear weapon, do you believe this is sufficient and there is no need to have nuclear weapons?

[Husayn] If the United States lends us a number of nuclear bombs to achieve balance with the Israeli nuclear bombs and spare the region the threats of war, we will not object at all. If the region is to be spared the evils of the mass destruction weapons, then work must be done to regain the Arabs' rights that are usurped by Israel, achieve peace, and remove the mass destruction weapons from the region.

[House] I would like to ask about your relations with the United States. You resumed diplomatic relations with the United States in 1984. From the American viewpoint at least, these relations were restored from a selfish viewpoint to open the way for U.S. presence in the Gulf waters. But many people also felt the relationship was beneficial to Iraq as well. In Amman you called for the withdrawal of these U.S. naval units. Why did you welcome these units into the Gulf waters during the war and now find their presence inappropriate? Why do you feel that these units must go?

[Husayn] First, in our opinion, establishment of relations with world nations is not based on selfish aims. Selfishness means seeking your interests at the expense of others. Our decision to resume relations with the United States was made several weeks before the war. But the war made us shelve the decision so it would not be interpreted from a narrow viewpoint by the Americans or anyone else, such as saying that Iraq restored these relations to gain some benefit in the war. But when the war dragged on and it became clear that Iraq could defend itself, we restored these relations in 1984.

Regarding the U.S. fleet, I openly declared in a written document in February 1980 that Arab lands and waters must be free of any foreign military presence. We still believe in this. The United States did not consult with us when it brought its fleet to the Gulf during the war. However, we did not oppose this presence since some of our Arab brothers considered the U.S. fleet's presence useful against Iranian aggression.

Now that East-West ties have improved, that progress has been achieved on disarmament between the two superpowers, and that the war has ended, we no longer understand nor see any need for the presence of the U.S. fleet in the region, unless it is there for purposes deterimental to the region's interests.

[House] What purposes?

[Husayn] There must exist some U.S. purposes at the expense of the region.

[House] What other purposes?

[Husayn] You should put this question to U.S. officials. They will tell you the reason for the presence of the U.S. fleet in the region. You ask them. Tell them: The war between Iraq and Iran is over, there are no longer any Iranian attacks on ships and tankers belonging to Kuwait or other nations, and the cold war between East and West is over. So what is the purpose of this fleet if not to spy on the Arabs in the interest of Israel and possibly join Israel in an aggression against the Arabs, or perhaps fabricate a maritime incident between Iraq and Iran in order to spark war.

[House] Regarding the war between Iraq and Iran, you made an offer to President Rafsanjani. What was his reply? Is there anything indeed that could move the situation from cease-fire to peace?

[Husayn] We are now holding a direct dialogue with the Iranians. We have told each other that we are determined to reach decisive results in this dialogue.

[House] When did the dialogue begin?

[Husayn] It began one day.

[House] Recently?

[Husayn] No, some time ago.

[House] Do you mean by direct literally; that is Iraqis and Iranians meeting each other without the presence of a third party?

[Husayn] Iraqis and Iranians meeting directly.

[House] Here and there.

[Husayn] Somewhere.

[House] So, are you optimistic, Mr. President?

[Husayn] I have always been optimistic about the future. We were optimistic even during the war, because war is an exception to the general rule of life. Peace is the general rule. Therefore, I am optimistic that peace will be achieved one day between Iraq and Iran. I have great hope that peace will prevail in the entire region and everyone will know his rights and will refrain from encroaching on other people's rights.

[House] You were involved in this war for eight years in extremely difficult times. These circumstances changed you, I imagine?

[Husayn] As a human being, the most painful thing to me in the war was the human victims. As I said, war is the exception rather than the rule in life. War has not changed the basic values in my thinking or in my behavior, because my behavior is based on ideas I believed since I was a secondary school student. My belief in these ideas was strengthened day after day and year after year.

[House] What are these values in which you believe?

[Husayn] They are the values that reawaken the Arab nation, making it capable of carrying out its humanitarian mission, which transcends the emphasis on national rights and national duties. We believe that genuine strength is not the strength whose positive aspects are only confined within a people or a nation, but a strength with clear and effective humanitarian benefits. Therefore, we think that Switzerland is closer to the concept of a great power than all the great powers.

[House] What contribution has Switzerland made to mankind?

[Husayn] In the field of human relations, Switzerland gave new models.

[House] Do you mean Switzerland as a peaceful country, or the Swiss individual?

[Husayn] Basically, Switzerland in terms of the Swiss individual. As a peaceful country, Switzerland is peaceful, but is capable of protecting its neutrality. A small people, active and efficient, they want peace. They take a neutral attitude toward war, but prepare themselves as if there could be war and at the same time avoid war.

[House] You are talking about states and nations you admire. Are there leaders you admire?

[Husayn] I admire all leaders who serve their countries with honor and without harming humanity.

[House] Can you name some?

[Husayn] I describe [leaders] in general.

[House] You are now in your second decade as president of the Republic. The first decade of your presidency was mostly devoted to construction, although a major part of this decade was devoted to war and to victory. What are your plans for Iraq in the nineties?

[Husayn] To us, the concept of responsibility is different from that in the West. Responsibility for us does not begin where official status begins. Since 1963, and following the coup against our party in Iraq, I had felt that I was responsible for all of Iraq and that I was struggling on behalf of the entire nation. I was only a party cadre when the revolution collapsed in 1963. I was not even a member of the higher command. Some command members went to prison. Let us also say that others were expelled from Iraq by the new regime. Some found themselves in special circumstances and unable to carry out an effective role. Faced with such a situation, and out of my sense of responsibility, I made myself responsible for the party and I gathered the party around me to pursue the struggle.

When the revolution succeeded in 1968, this sense of responsibility remained unchanged and I continued to assume the responsibility, irrespective of the titles I assumed. I cannot say that my era started in 1979 and that before that date, the era belonged to others, as it is in the West. In the West, when you elect a president, his era begins and is known by his name. As for us, we lead a march assisted by other comrades who all contribute to render the march a success, each from his own position and to the best of his ability. Now, you asked me how I envisage the coming years, or the next 10 years. With respect to Iraq, we aspire and work to make every Iraqi happy, to have him exercise his responsibility within the elected councils to promote economy in the social, family, educational fields, and in all other walks of life. On the level of the Arab nation, we hope the nation's situation will improve, that coordination and joint action will be enhanced further, that peace will prevail in the world, and that arrogance will be checked.

[House] If this is your objective—and it is a praiseworthy objective—then what do you expect? Do you believe you can rebuild Iraq, avert war, and prevent obstacles from hampering these objectives, or do you think forces will prevent you from achieving these objectives?

[Husayn] Obstructive forces existed in the past. These forces pushed for war when they learned of our ambitious development and construction programs and when they learned we were capable of carrying out our programs. And although it was a very long and hard war, it did not stop the progress of life.

[House] By these forces, do you mean Iran, Iran and the West, or Israel?

[Husayn] I have talked about the past and said that the war was with Iran, and that the West and Israel encouraged it.

[House] Then you are afraid that, when they see Iraq rising up again to develop itself and push forward toward Arab unity, these forces may try, once more, to knock out Iraq in another war?

[Husayn] God willing, they will not be able to knock out Iraq. We are cautious. We fear only God and proceed with His blessings. We also have confidence in our people.

[House] Would you say that the Israelis are also cautious?

[Husayn] I believe they are gamblers.

[House] Then, may I ask you something directly, clearly, and frankly?

[Husayn] Was all this not clear and frank?

[House] Are you saying I am being clear and direct? I think Your Excellency is the one who is direct and clear.

[Husayn] I am not bothered by direct questions, you can say what you wish.

[House] The first question, then: Do you believe in any way that another war could start in this region in the next few months, or can it be avoided?

[Husayn] We are working to avert any war. However, our policy cannot make every concerned party in the region fall into line with these hopes. However, I believe that the world is more mature now and the politicians in the region are more mature. The number of well-wishers who want to avert war is growing, but there are still evil people around. At the same time, the question does not only depend on people in the region and on their desire, or lack of it, for peace. Others outside the region have a role to play in war and peace.

[House] Do you mean the United States?

[Husayn] The United States primarily.

[House] What should the United States do?

[Husayn] It must try to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. So far, it looks as if it is not very concerned with what is going on in the region. It is certainly not prepared to make any sacrifices for the cause of peace. Let me explain this:

Whenever the Zionist lobby exerts pressure on the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Administration, and as soon as this pressure is taken into account in future calculations for U.S. elections, very bad decisions are made, such as the Congress' decision to consider Jerusalem the capital of Israel. Do you not think this was an insult to every Arab, including in the first place, those whom the United States considers friends? The same goes for the decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO. Does the United States think it is doing the PLO a favor by just holding a dialogue with it?

As an Arab struggler, I believe it is the PLO that has done the United States a favor by agreeing to hold a dialogue with the U.S. Administration, which is clearly biased toward Israel and against the PLO. We have many examples of this. What does this mean other than U.S. reluctance to offer a small sacrifice to bring about peace? Every time a U.S. president feels that the Zionist lobby will affect voters or support for him, he breaks off dialogue with the PLO and then decides to resume it, saying: We have resumed the dialogue, doing a favor to the Arabs and the PLO and respecting our friends' opinion in the region. The U.S. Administration imagines that it can slap friends and nations alike in the face whenever it wishes and tells them, at the same time, that it respects them.

If U.S. officials actually want peace, they should seek a comprehensive peace in the region. We know they cannot achieve peace just like that, but they could offer some sacrifice for peace and abandon the devilish idea of Zionism and Israel, which is trying to create a link between its aggressive requirements and U.S. interests, including the idea that the United States cannot guarantee its share of oil if Israel is unable to expand and carry out aggression. Whoever wants peace should be neutral between the disputing parties. He should not wage war against parties that acquire weapons through their own efforts and should not help the other sides publicly to make their weapons superior. Moreover, there should be full recognition that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and that negotiations should be held with it.

There is no Arab who can negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people and the PLO. We have many past and present examples of this.

[House] Is President Bush better or worse than former presidents?

[Husayn] I will not judge the course of events and I cannot make a comparison between U.S. presidents, but I can describe good positions as good and bad positions as bad. The campaign against Iraq is bad, the bias toward Israel is bad, supplying Israel with weapons that upset the balance of power and make Israel self-deluded and aggressive is bad, breaking off dialogue with the PLO is bad, and Congress' decision considering Jerusalem the capital of Israel is the worst of all.

[House] In 1967, the Israelis offered land for peace, and the Arabs are now offering the same thing, but it is Israel that rejects it.

[Husayn] If this is the case, why do you not wage a media war against Israel? Those who do not wage such a media campaign against Israel, want war not peace.

[House] Mr. President, in fact, much has been written on this subject. Although it has not changed much, Israel's position has not affected the official U.S. position.

[Husayn] The subject is dealt with in half of the campaign that is usually directed against the Arabs when they disagree with the U.S. position.

[House] Not in the same way. You are right on this point. I want to touch on something that I want to write about. In 1967, the Israelis sought peace for land and the Arabs rejected that offer. Now the Arabs want to give peace to Israel in return for land. I believe the Israelis reject this offer. I would like to write an editorial on this point. It seems to me that the Arabs committed a mistake in 1967 by failing to take land for peace. Do you agree with this? Second, the Israelis may be making the same mistake now. After 10 or 20 years, they might wish they had accepted the offer.

[Text] [Husayn] I think the Arabs have, in the past, made mistakes. One of these is that, politically, they have been less than astute, which is why they have failed to grasp what has been happening around the world. Back in 1967, Israel showed greater skill working hand in hand with the West. Then, the Arabs acted more on principle, while Israel, by contrast, made the most of the rules of the political game. By principle, I mean pressing for one's rights without making concessions. Unless backed by power, however, this remains a little more than a slogan. The question arises, then, why Israel changed the slogan by which it was guided in 1967.

Israel was not faithful to its slogan in 1967, but it used it to win Western support and aid and to discredit the Arabs, saying they were bent on exterminating the Jews in Palestine. Israel had sought to project an image of itself as a peacemaker and the Arabs as peace haters. Mistakes or no mistakes, it is becoming clear which of the two sides is really interested in equitable peace, and which wants neither peace nor justice. Mere slogans unaccompanied by action are meaningless.

[House] What is wrong with slogans?

[Husayn] These slogans have been raised by the Arabs, but Israel has backpedaled. In two successive summit conferences, the Arabs have spelled out their strategy. You will remember that the Baghdad summit resolutions made peace overtures. But look at Israel now advancing Hitler's lebensraum of the thirties.

[House] If I understand your last remark correctly, you are accusing us in the West of letting Israel get away with similar policies to those we let Hitler get away with then?

[Husayn] Not exactly. What I am saying is that it is not permissible to talk about defensible borders at the expense of the Arabs. It smacks of Hitler's lebensraum. It was a plank of the new Israeli Government's program, which we have published here. But our statements are reported inaccurately. We published the Israeli Government's program for the Iraqi people to see. Lebensraum featured in the Israeli Government's policy statement and is espoused by the America Israel Public Affairs Committee. One would have expected an outcry from the American press and politicians, but they could not care less.

[House] I realize that I have imposed on you; you are generous with me and I appreciate that.

[Husayn] That's all right. Take your time.

[House] You are regarded by the United States as the strongman of the Arab world. That is the conventional wisdom there. But don't you think you could be an architect of peace in the region and thus make radical measures parallel to Nixon's China visit, on the strength of your capabilities and standing in the Arab world?

[House] To begin with, Iraq is a poor nation of limited means. I am leader of the Iraqis and in this capacity in debt to the Iraqi people. The Iraqi people, have, for their part, proved to the world that they are happy with their leadership. Both the Iraqi leadership and people are at the service of the Arab nation. It is not the first time that I have been asked your question. Western politicians, and more particularly Americans, have put the question to me. This distort matters, however. The proposition is a waste of time. Take the war between us and Iran. If someone were to propose talks between Iraq and China, for instance, or between Iraq and Pakistan to advance the cause of peace, we would have distorted things and moved further away from peace.

We know, however, that we are one nation and that the example, therefore, may not exactly apply to us. If the Palestinians, or the Arabs including the Palestinians, choose us to play any political role, we will discuss it with them. The Arabs have chosen the PLO to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians since 1974. Those who are searching for peace, therefore, should negotiate with the PLO.

[House] When I referred to Nixon's visit to China, I did not mean that you should go to Israel. All I wanted to suggest was some initiative or step that changes the current situation and methods of action for peace.

[Husayn] The PLO is the side directly concerned with the Palestine question; Syria is the side directly concerned with the Golan issue. Those who want to restore Palestinian rights and lands should negotiate with the PLO and those who want to regain the Golan should negotiate with Syria. With due respect to my brothers, if the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, choose me, I will not be an easy negotiator.

[House] In light of the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO—and the reasons were the PLO's failure to recognize Israel or to denounce the operation carried out against the Israelis—can we expect more terrorist operations? And are you worried that Iraq, because of its friendship with the PLO and its permission for some PLO fighters to base themselves here, may be accused or blamed for providing shelter or encouraging PLO terrorism?

[Husayn] Have you ever heard, read, or dealt with a people who have had their lands usurped and dignity abused without striking at the aggressors?

Let us take the United States as an example. America was engaged in a bloody civil war to unite the United States of America. It is certain that women, civilian men, and perhaps children were killed unintentionally during the war. In the war between Iraq and Iran, civilian men, women, and children were killed. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki, whole cities were wiped out.

In order to be fair, therefore, we must measure human issues with the same scale. We should not describe the injured party who carries out attacks in his occupied territories as terrorist. We must tell the occupiers that they are terrorists.

The United States, which is a superpower, attacked Al-Qadhdhafi's house while his children and other women and defenseless civilians were inside. It killed and injured civilians and failed to kill al-Qadhdhafi. Is this not terrorism?

If Palestinians who make strikes in the occupied territories and, in the course of their operations, kill civilians are considered terrorists, then it is more appropriate to describe the president of the United States as a terrorist, because he gave orders to attack a home, not a military headquarters, when he attacked President al-Qadhdhafi.

[House] The last subject, Mr. President, is the oil issue. Your country has the second largest oil reserves, and it is one of the biggest sources that supplies us with oil. Now, after Saudi Arabia, the United States, and the USSR, you are also the biggest oil producer. What is your oil strategy for the next five or ten years?

[Husayn] To have oil serve our economy, and to deal with oil and to call on others to deal with it in a manner that does not harm the interests of others when we look pursue our interests in oil production, prices, and marketing.

[House] When you say this should not be at the expense of others' interests, by others, do you mean consumers or producers?

[Husayn] We mean consumers and producers.

[House] Do you believe that, in any form, oil should be a political weapon to be used to attract the attention of the West, or to change the West's stands?

[Husayn] Have you not prevented us from obtaining the capacitors? Has not England searched and inspected every single piece of Iraqi goods at the airport? The West should answer this question. If the West wants to prevent the world from seizing opportunities to cause harm to others, then it should begin with itself. Western states say they are civilized, and that others have not yet reached the civilized or humanitarian level of England or the United States. If this is true, then they should begin with themselves, and open up science and technology to develop the world. They should also treat economic relations in a balanced way to reduce misery and wretchedness in the world, and consequently you would give us the example that we should follow, especially since you are the most civilized. However, if the major powers or the superpowers seize opportunities to persecute others and to make profits at their expense, then the others will be in the position of having to search for means to defend themselves and their interests. Just look now at the Iraqi oil barrel price. It is $14. Is this the real oil price? This does not represent half of the real value of the oil price in 1971. Who is responsible for this injustice? They are some of the Western states, and some of my friends in the region who do not see beyond their noses. Is not this a conspiracy against the region's economy? Does not this serve Israel directly? These are signs that we had not wanted to appear. In 1973, I gave brother Tariq 'Aziz, or another person whom I cannot recall now, some ideas for an editorial in which we strongly criticized the call for increasing oil prices without preparing for it. We said that this mania to increase prices seemed to be intended to provide a cover for some consumers to take the opposite side, and consequently to reduce oil prices. The conclusion is that we say that an economy prospers through cooperation and not confrontation, whether in this region or in the world. We have no desire to use oil as a political weapon unless we are forced to do so to defend ourselves and our interests.

[House] So, you consider oil as a weapon of last resort, but you do not rule it out as a weapon?

[Husayn] No one can rule out using the economy or the role of his economy to defend himself. If the world agrees on a concept ruling out the use of economics in politics, then we will be the first to sign it. Because the United States is the number one superpower, then, if it were really sincere in its call for not using oil as a weapon, then it should promote the principle of not using economics as a weapon.

[House] So, without going through the whole story of the events in March, the capacitors and the big gun were not as we described them, you were not going to manufacture a nuclear weapon, or to build this big gun, and what we are doing against you is simply economic war?

[Husayn] What is the range of this giant gun you have talked about?

[House] You are the military expert, not me.

[Husayn] They have mentioned a gun with a range of 600, or 500, or 300 km. Israel has launched a 1,350 km-range missile that fell into the sea off the Libyan coast near Banghazi. Let us assume it is true. Does the gun have a longer range, or is it more dangerous than the missiles? Do you know why this story was fabricated and why there was so much talk about it?

[House] Was it a fabrication?

[Husayn] Because the question concerns Iraq, which is an Arab country, and Arabs are prohibited from possessing anything to protect their dignity, security, and sovereignty. At the same time, the United States and Israel proudly declare they are discussing cooperation in the "star wars" program and actually cooperate in manufacturing rockets that can destroy missiles, which means Arab missiles.

Israel is in possession of the nuclear bomb. We are not the ones saying this, but your media, whether it was a fact or whether it was intended to frighten and blackmail the Arabs. You have announced this. The Americans say they are conducting joint tests with Israel in the field of "star wars" and in the field of the intercepting missiles. The Americans and the Israelis have also announced the strategic stockpiling of U.S. weapons and spare parts in Israel. Does this indicate anything but the desire to place the Arabs in a lower humanitarian and military level than Israel?

Whether this giant gun—which some people have called the doomsday gun—exists or not, it is not the biggest or most effective weapon in the world.

[House] If the story about the gun is true, then what is stopping you from admitting that you have such a thing?

[Husayn] I have answered that. You must ask Israel where Israel's nuclear bombs are and what kind of weapons it has.

[House] Do you mean we do not have the right to ask such questions unless we make Israel answer similar questions?

[Husayn] I have not said that. What I have said is this: Whether the gun exists or not, it is not the most dangerous weapon in the world. What I wish to stress is that Arabs have the right to possess any type of weapon possessed by our enemy in order to defend themselves—not to practice an irresponsible policy in the region.

[House] Out of fairness, then, and if we accept that basis, we should agree that Arabs must have whatever weapons Israel has to protect themselves?

[Husayn] Exactly.

[House] If this is the situation, and if you put this gun in the context of this philosophy, what is wrong with having this gun and with admitting its existence?

[Husayn] I have answered this question.

[House] I may have misunderstood.

[Husayn] I have said: Whether it exists or not, it is not the most effective weapon in the world and Arabs have the right to possess weapons that match their enemy's. We must leave some room for you to maneuver and to draw certain conclusions, which may be right or wrong.

[House] I will not give myself the liberty of drawing conclusions. I will say what you have said. You have answered in such a way as to leave much room for drawing conclusions.

[Husayn] I mean to leave you room for maneuver in writing.

[House] The same goes for the use of oil as a weapon. I want to make certain that I understand the situation as it is, since to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL as a financial publication, oil is one of the most important subjects. I understood you to say that, as long as the West continues to wage economic warfare and to withhold technology, Iraq reserves the right...

[Husayn] Why trouble yourself? I have answered your question adequately. If you play back the cassette on your recorder, you'll find the answer.

[House] Thank you, Mr. President. I feel it is my duty to ask Your Excellency if there is anything you would like to say that I have failed to include in my questions.

[Husayn] I think the questions were inclusive and adequate for the purposes of this interview.

[House] One last question, and then I promise I will go.

[Husayn] You are welcome. It is no trouble.

[House] Thank you so much. In the United States and in the West in general, people have been fascinated by your personality and are curious to learn more about you and what motives drive you. You have talked at length about motives of pan-Arabism in Iraq and beyond. Does it offend you that you are not portrayed in the West as a truly strong, resolute, and astute leader in the Arab world?

[Husayn] Or as a human being, which I see as the most important attribute. However, weakness will not avail in the attainment of the goals sought by a leader.

[House] My question is: You are pictured more as a ruthless leader pursuing ruthless policies than in those terms.

[Husayn] I would be distressed if, as an American, you should come to the conclusion that I was ruthless, but this campaign, I believe, is tendentious. It intensified as Iraq began to show steadfastness in the war. This is because some circles, including Israel and the Zionist movement and their extensions, had not been accustomed to Arabs putting up a fight for many years. It seems that some had expected us, once the war was over, to kiss their hands and ask them to save us and salvage what could be salvaged. Since we have not acted that way out of respect for our principles, our leading position, and our people and humanity, some of these circles became worried and the drive against Iraq intensified immediately after the victory.

Do you know what some Western circles have been saying? They have been saying this: Having emerged from the war in possession of a sizable amount of military equipment and hardware, Iraq will use it against its Arab brothers. Our fellow Arabs have told us that the Americans and the British have been warning Gulf states against dangers emanating from Iraq. Whatever is said in Morocco, we get to hear about. Isn't that hostile and tendentious?

Then they began to talk about the ruthless and heartless Saddam, who orders the execution of spies. What do they want? Do they want Iraq to revert to the old times when spies had a field day, foreigners milked its wealth, the country's children starved, the elderly suffered from malnutrition, and only a handful of its people wore shoes?

We in Iraq do not let foreigners interfere in our decision-making. Those who steal information are put on trial according to the law. Information may not be leaked to foreigners. The law punishes those who spy for foreigners and who flee from war. Iraqi law may not be like American or French law, but it works in Iraq, because the Iraqi people are not like the French or Americans. Iraqis have their own characteristics. We may abandon some of our characteristics only if they are rejected by our people or the Arab nation. So far, we believe that our people are satisfied with our policy. This year, God willing, a referendum on the Constitution and on Saddam Husayn—if he is nominated—will be held. Our people will give yet further and stronger evidence of their satisfaction with our policy. Of course, some things may be criticized and some decisions, having outlived their usefulness, may be abandoned. People might think a certain law should be abolished six months before its time and we may believe the law should be abolished six months after its time. This is natural, but we are all satisfied with the policy in general. I think you remember that our people expressed confidence in Saddam Husayn under the most difficult circumstances of the war. If statistics, votes, and figures are your only way of measuring the relationship between the people and their leadership, then you will have it this year, God willing.

[House] What time of year?

[Husayn] The leadership has not yet decided the time, and we are still studying the Constitution, and we will finish soon. The leadership will then decide where the Constitution should be studied next. The Constitution will certainly be published so the people can absorb and discuss it before casting their votes.

[House] Will there be a public referendum on the Constitution and on you?

[Husayn] [On the Constitution] and on the president of the Republic of Iraq.

[House] Sorry, Mr. President, you said that Saddam Husayn may decide to run for the presidency.

[Husayn] This is left to the future.

[House] Mr. President, now you seem to have taken on some of the characteristics of U.S. politicians.

[Husayn] No. I do not take on others' characteristics. Our qualities are related to our people and history. We leave things to their time and never abandon our duty to serve our nation in any capacity. It is a great honor for us to serve our people in any capacity. We proved this in the past. We serve our people from any position, not only from the position of the first man in the state. We have been serving our people since we were high school students.

[House] Is there anything you do to relax, or is work your whole life?

[Husayn] Every human being must inevitably find his humanity in order to know the needs of others' humanity. I think those who deprive themselves of life cannot accurately assess the needs of others in this life. But, naturally, time and needs are related to circumstances, the nature of work, and degree of responsibility.

[House] So what do you do for relaxation?

[Husayn] What anyone else in society does, but with some differences. We sleep, swim, eat, sit with the family, friends, and people. But the most important activity for relaxation is to meet people through free tours, especially of the countryside.

[House] I hope that you will allow me to accompany you on a visit to the countryside in the future.

[Husayn] God willing. But we must tell the peasants that this blonde is an American journalist.

[House] I do not mind, Mr. President; it does not embarrass me.

## Shamir Says No Room for Inflexibility in Dialogue

*TA0207171890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] I have not received any request from U.S. President George Bush to meet President Mubarak, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated this afternoon. Our correspondent Eyal Lavi reports:

[Begin recording] [Lavi] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he had not yet received any reaction from the United States to his message of last week. The fact that no real reaction, as he put it, had been received has a positive angle to it.

[Shamir] It should be noted with satisfaction that we have not received negative responses, and this fills me with hope that the effort will indeed be pursued and that the cooperation between us and the U.S. Government for the sake of attaining peace in the region will strengthen and continue.

[Lavi] Upon emerging from a graduation ceremony of police officers, the prime minister was asked whether he thinks the U.S. positions could not be changed. There is no room for rigid positions in this political effort, Shamir said. It is obligated to adjust to the situation and to the positions of the sides.

Shamir also commented on Bush's proposal to confer with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

[Shamir] I have not received any request, but everybody knows that I favor such personal contacts.

[Lavi] In his speech at the ceremony, Shamir said that the purpose of the recent growing number of terrorist attacks in Jerusalem is to undermine its status as Israel's capital. It is the responsibility of the Israeli Police to thwart these efforts, Shamir said. [end recording]

## Netanyahu Addresses Knesset on Peace Process

*TA0207173990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] The Israeli Government says it expects the foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt and the U.S. secretary of state to meet as one of the next steps in the peace process. Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu addressed the Knesset this afternoon in response to various motions for the agenda on the peace process. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the Knesset the first steps taken by the new government have included renewed contacts with both Cairo and Washington. But any meetings involving the three foreign ministers, said Netanyahu, should not be viewed as reward to any one country from the other but rather as a way to express the self-interests of the three countries.

Netanyahu was responding to a series of motions for the agenda, including one by Yitzhaq Rabin, widely seen as a platform speech aimed at boosting his position in his fight against Shim'on Peres for the Labor Party leadership. Rabin said the last government's peace initiative was laid to rest in its eternal burial place when the new narrow coalition received Knesset approval last month.

In response, Netanyahu countered that any delay in the peace process was due to the downfall of the national unity government brought about by Labor. The deputy foreign minister repeated the new government's position that the heart of the problem is the unwillingness of Arab states to seize the state of war and to start negotiating.

## Ambassador to Egypt Meets With Levi, Resigns

*TA0307104490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 Jul 90*

[Text] Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Shim'on Shamir submitted his resignation to Foreign Minister David Levi this afternoon. After the meeting, Prof. Shamir told our political correspondent Arye Golan that his resignation is in no way linked to the question of the future of the political process. According to him, he had decided to resign on the day the new government was established because he does not agree with it and its platform on social and economic issues, as well as others.

Foreign Minister David Levi expressed his regret about the resignation, but noted that he understands Shamir's motives.

## UN Envoy Aime Leaves After Concluding Meetings

*TA0307090790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jul 90 pp 1, 10*

[Report by Matthew Seriphs]

[Excerpts] UN undersecretary Jean Claude Aime departed for New York yesterday morning, to report his findings on Palestinians in the territories to the secretary-general. He had extended his fact-finding mission here by a number of days, after requesting many additional meetings. [passage omitted]

Some Palestinians greeted Aime's visit enthusiastically, seeing it as an opportunity to press for permanent international observers to protect the population in the territories, and to show an impartial observer how the economic situation there had deteriorated.

Other Palestinians doubted that Aime's visit would improve their situation. As the editor of one East Jerusalem Arabic daily cynically put it: "Aime's report will gather dust at UN headquarters, just like all the other UN reports gathering dust in New York."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was irrelevant to Israel to ask whether the visit had been a success, adding merely that Aime was "received by all officials he wanted to meet."

## Soviet Ministry Says Emigration Policy Unchanged

*TA2906084390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Jun 90 p 1*

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[Text] Moscow—The Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday sought to distance itself from recent remarks by its spokesman, Gennadiy Gerasimov, that the Soviet Union might reestablish relations with Israel if it receives assurances that Soviet Jews will not be settled in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On Tuesday, Gerasimov told a press conference here that "if the Israel government will give certain guarantees that Jews of Soviet origin will not be settled in the occupied territories, that will change the entire picture, including our attitude towards diplomatic relations."

Gerasimov left immediately after the press conference for Luxembourg, and has not been available for comment. But yesterday, in response to a question from THE JERUSALEM POST, his assistant, Yuriy Gremitskikh, stated: "It follows from Gerasimov's comments that he reacted positively to a possible decision by the Israeli government to refrain from settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. But as regards the issue of reestablished diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, I believe Gerasimov's comments do not change or cancel the famous position taken by the Soviet Union—that the reestablishment of those diplomatic relations could be done only in the aftermath of a Middle East peace settlement. [no end quote marks as published]

## Construction Continues in Gaza Strip Settlements

*TA0307090090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jul 90 p 2*

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Dugit—Two settlers were this week putting the final touches on this fenced site on the sand dunes, within walking distance of the Jabalyah refugee camp, in the north of the Gaza Strip. The first 10 or so families are expected to move into their new homes in about a fortnight.

Down at the Strip's southern tip, within view of Egyptian border posts, workers were completing construction of 26 white villas. And in five other new villages, workers were building close to 100 houses to strengthen the Israel presence in one of the world's most densely populated areas.

The activity has been going on despite U.S. criticism. President George Bush has reportedly warned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that the U.S. would publicly oppose Israel if it did not halt expansion of existing settlements in the territories.

The Prime Minister's media adviser, Avi Pazner, yesterday denied such a threat was made and insisted he did not expect a confrontation with the U.S. over the work in Gaza. [passage omitted]

In the sand dunes west of Rafiah Yam, workers are finishing the construction of two-storey villas which offer a view of the coast and its palms. A foreman said he expected the residents now in caravans to move there in six weeks.

Rafiah Yam is seeking additional candidates to occupy the caravans.

Neighbouring 'Atzmona is the temporary home of a 13-family group which hopes to establish Pe'at Sade. The group, which is also seeking additional members, hopes to build its permanent homes in one-and-a-half to two years and the wished-for land has already been located.

Elsewhere in the Strip, according to Tzvi Hendel, head of the Gaza Coast Regional Council, 60 homes are under construction at Neve Deqalim, 13 in Ele Sinay, and 10 each in Gadid, 'Atzmona and Ganey Tal.

## Military Considers 'Conditional' Deportations

### Would Punish Intifadah Leaders

*TA0107120790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jul 90 p A1*

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The defense establishment has instructed Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military advocate general, to examine the legal aspects of a new idea to penalize key intifadah figures. The new penal measure is called "conditional deportation," by which is meant the expulsion of a person found out to be an "intifadah leader" from his permanent domicile to another place in the territories, without his family, for a limited period of time.

During the expulsion term, the individual will be subject to constant surveillance. If he ceases to engage in intifadah activities, he will be permitted to return home at the end of the expulsion. If, however, he persists in that type of activity in the place to which he was banished, he will be relocated once again. Military sources have pointed out that the policy of deporting Palestinian leaders from Israel has lost its effectiveness due to the High Court of Justice's intervention in defense establishment moves.

The military advocate general's office is also reviewing the legal angles of a new decree the IDF [Israel Defense Force] plans to issue obligating each inhabitant whose roof can be used to throw stones from to erect a 2.5-meter fence around it. The military sources said: The owner of the house should be responsible for making sure no stones are thrown from the roof of the home he owns. He will be obligated to lock the door to the roof, and to make sure that no one goes up there.

New ways to combat the stone-throwing phenomenon are also being looked into, as this is the main problem the IDF encounters in its fight against the intifadah. Military sources pointed out that the defense minister and the chief of staff are examining additional methods and ideas to lower the level of violence. The military sources added: New ideas are broached day in and day out. Every new idea is examined from the legal, public, and moral points of view.

### Arens Authorizes Deportations

*TA0207112690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 90 p A2*

[Report by military affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has authorized the use of a new punitive measure which permits the conditional deportation of intifadah leaders. [passage omitted]

Senior security sources told HA'ARETZ yesterday evening that the defense minister had indeed given the green light to this new measure. According to the sources, senior commanders in the territories and the Shin Bet will be allowed to submit a list of activists they wish to deport from their homes and resettle elsewhere.

The security sources explained that the new method was designed to replace the deportation of leaders outside of Israel and thus prevent them from appealing to the High Court of Justice.

The new measure will apparently be reviewed by the High Court of Justice when it is first implemented in the field.

### Call To Probe 'Illegal Orders' in Territories

*TA0207175190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] The demand to set up an inquiry committee to investigate the political echelon's responsibility for handing down illegal orders in the territories is gathering momentum. The MAPAM [United Workers Party] and Shinuy Knesset factions called on the state comptroller to set up an inquiry committee to investigate the political and military echelons' responsibility.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in their letter the two factions point out that during current trials in military tribunals there are repeated charges about collective responsibility by defense establishment elements and the political echelon for incidents in the territories. Earlier, Citizens Rights Movement Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid and Likud MK Mikha'el Eytan demanded the establishment of a state inquiry committee.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who is serving a prison term in Eyal jail, demanded that the police commissioner interrogate MK Yitzhaq Rabin for offenses linked to the intifadah.

### Arens Seen Continuing Role of Foreign Minister

*TA0207161790 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Jul 90 p 7*

[Commentary by Avner Regev: "Not Just a Defense Minister"]

[Excerpts] Minister Moshe Arens' return to the Defense Ministry left many on the political right, especially the settlers, with the feeling that he would find a solution to the intifadah and that the iron fist would begin to have its effect in the field. This feeling grew when Arens decided that his first day as defense minister would be spent in settlements in the territories. The visit was accompanied by declarations about a buildup of forces along the main axes and tougher punitive measures against disturbers of the peace.

Arens did not leave the Foreign Ministry with joy. When the government was being formed, he tried to convince Yitzhaq Shamir that he should continue the work he started at the Foreign Ministry, and what he meant by this was the peace initiative. As foreign minister, Arens participated in formulating the Baker questions as presented to the Israeli Government, which disbanded over their not giving the Americans a positive answer. It is hard for him now to see and hear David Levi speak on television and radio, and read him in the print media on Israeli foreign policy issues, just as it is difficult for him to get used to the idea that he must now worry about Israel's defenses and not its foreign affairs.

The theory that Shamir was not so interested in Arens' continued service in the Foreign Ministry despite his total command of English bears some truth. The misunderstandings between Arens and Baker were well known. Almost every Arens visit to Washington ended with contradictory announcements by both figures, which in most cases embarrassed Arens, as he was already on his way back from Washington to Jerusalem.

During Arens' first two weeks in the Defense Ministry, we witnessed an interesting phenomenon. He is not talking about a return to calm in the territories and uprooting the intifadah, but continues to implement the policy aimed at creating a momentum to continue the peace process based on the unity government's 14 May 1989 resolution. Arens is continuing, apparently through inertia, to act as foreign minister and is looking for a way to continue to do something in this field, but which would be difficult for David Levi to penetrate. As someone who was tied to the peace initiative, its wording, and discussions about it, both in Israel and the United States, it is difficult for Arens to abruptly cut himself off, especially because he knows that in this way he can still be involved if the process resumes. Arens will try to continue where Rabin left off when the unity government disbanded.

During his initial days in the Defense Ministry, Arens thought it right to meet with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj to renew relations between them. Arens heard from him what the residents of the territories are saying when they are asked about a representation from the territories for talks with Israel. Frayj reiterated that the PLO is the Palestinians' representative and that any attempt to develop an alternative local leadership—even if the United States has suspended the dialogue with that organization—will be sharply opposed. [passage omitted]

It is worthwhile recalling that Arens served for two years as minister in charge of minority affairs. In that job Arens was concerned with political aspects when he checked the possibility of recruiting Israeli Arabs to the Army, or setting up a framework for national service. Arens closely watched the influence events in the territories (even before the intifadah) were having on Israel's Arab population. He believes that now, as defense minister, the issue should not be neglected. He will investigate the possibility of adding Israeli Arabs to his activities as part of an attempt to reach a dialogue with the inhabitants of the territories who are in close contact with them.

The defense minister recently ordered the opening of two universities in the territories, while at the same time permitted the establishment of a civil guard in the settlements. Those decisions suit his world view, which calls for the annexation of the territories and the granting of full rights to the inhabitants. This proves that Arens will not operate just as a defense minister, and political aspects will always be found in his decisions.

Some four years ago in a symposium at the Labor Party's Bet Berl College, Arens claimed that each inhabitant of the territories must be permitted to receive Israeli citizenship if he wants it when the territories are annexed and become part of Israeli sovereignty. This approach, supposedly characterized by American-liberal humanity, is an important component of the minister's makeup. At present there is no choice but to give him (limited) credit and to permit him to tackle the security-political situation his way. At this stage there is no alternative from the Labor Party, which is up to its neck in leadership struggles.

### Arab Poet Habib Released From House Arrest

*TA0207105390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] The Haifa District Court has released Arab poet Shafiq Habib from house arrest. Habib was placed under house arrest two weeks ago on charges of identifying with a terrorist organization and inciting violence in his poetry.

The Haifa District Court judge, Mikha Lindenstrauss, upheld Habib's appeal against his house arrest, saying it was sufficient that the censors had banned publications of his poems.

### Several Arrested on Drug Charges; Study Conducted

*TA3006073490*

[Editorial report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 18 June reports that "Negev District police have seized about 250 grams of heroin in the Bedouin township of Laggiya." The report adds that "a known drug dealer and a 15-year-old relative were detained."

An ITIM report on page 5 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 26 June says that a three-month operation by an undercover agent "led to the arrest of 12 people from Tel Aviv, Holon, Bat Yam, and Haifa who are suspected of dealing in drugs and fenced goods."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 26 June carries an ITIM report on page A3 saying that a comprehensive study conducted by the Drug Enforcement Authority shows "some 25,000 youngsters aged 13 to 18 used drugs illegally last year." The study was the first of its kind. The youngsters were found to have mostly used "tranquilizers, sleeping pills, and uppers; 1.7 percent reported smoking hashish, and 1.5 percent admitted to having used hard drugs." The study shows that "6.8 percent of Israel's population, or 83,000 adults aged 18 to 40, made illegal use of some psychoactive drugs last year." Drug abuse was found "to be higher among non-Jewish than among Jewish men," and "to be higher among men than among women."

### Ministry Starts Registration of Black Hebrews

*TA0107171690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] The Interior Ministry today began to register members of the Black Hebrew sect in order to accord them legal status and work permits. A special team from the Population Administration came to Dimona to conduct registration. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that many of the Black Hebrews presented themselves with their U.S. passports to receive their legal permits.

## PFLP May Decide To Form Political Party

*PM2906141090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 90 p 4*

[Layla Dib report: "Popular Front Party To Be Announced in Jordan Soon"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jordanian Deputy Dr. Dhib Marji has announced that a party belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] will be established in Jordan, and that this will be announced within a week.

Dr. Marji told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there are proposals concerning whether or not to turn the Front into a party. Discussions and debates at all levels have showed that a large majority are in favor of turning the Front into a national democratic party in Jordan. The transformation decision will be officially announced within a week by a senior authority of the organization.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT inquired about the matter last week, but PFLP leaders in Jordan categorically denied the reports.

It is known that the Front's Central Committee meetings are held in Damascus and no statement has been issued with regard to the establishment of a party.

Dr. Marji said that the name has not yet been agreed upon, but will be chosen later.

Asked about the party's aims and composition, he told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the party will comprise the same cadres as the Front. Its domestic program will be to work to enhance the democratic experiment in Jordan, its national democratic role, and Arab integration as a step toward Arab unity. There is, he added, great interest in economic and social problems.

As for the Palestinian issue, it is the party's first and major concern.

Asked whether there are disagreements within the Front over the establishment of a party, Dr. Marji said that there are different views, not disagreements. Matters will be settled in accordance with the Front's regulations and in a democratic way. The minority will abide by the majority's decision.

## Badran on Water Problems With Israel, Economy

*JN0207082490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Jul 90 pp 1,4*

[By Salamah Ni'mat, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—Jordan warned Sunday that Israel's illegal use of water from the occupied territories, the Jordan and Litani rivers and its obstruction of Jordanian attempts to get financing for al-Wahdah Dam could destroy all chances for peace in the region.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Israel had interferred with the World Bank to block the financing of the al-Wahdah Dam project by asserting that it had rights over the Yarmuk River waters.

"Israel has been able to interfere with the World Bank and stop the extension of loans for the project," Badran said in an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Hayat newspapers. "Israel is claiming that it has rights in the (Yarmuk) River waters and it insists on having a share", the prime minister added.

He said Jordan would seek financing from other sources to go ahead with the project which it had already launched in cooperation with Syria. The project, which was expected to cost $450 million, was designed to provide a reserve of 120 million cubic metres of water.

"Jordan is suffering severe water shortages," Badran said. "Israel is obstructing the project—using unrealistic and illogical excuses...now we have a financing problem because Israel is saying it wants shares in the waters, which made the World Bank stop its financing."

He pointed out that Israel has also started pumping Litani River waters "in addition to fully exploiting River Jordan waters and pumping it to its strategic reservoir in the Tiberias Lake."

"Israel is taking the waters to supply new settlements," Badran said. "If these settlements go ahead, then it is the end of all chances for peace in the region. The use of these waters for settlements means turning the page on peace forever and ever."

He said Jordan's position on Israel's water claims was unchanged: "We will not give up any part no matter how small our water rights because we, more than any other country in the Middle East, are badly in need of water. There is no going back on this position."

"We are suffering from water shortages, including drinking water," Badran said. "It is no secret that some areas in Jordan do not receive water except once every two weeks and some villages have no water except once every 18 days."

He said that despite the fact that most of Israel's population density is on the Mediterranean coast, and the opportunities available to it for water desalination, Israel "continues to take our waters...we have confirmed information about the size of the damage done to ground water resources in the West Bank and the size of Israeli exploitation of these waters."

On statements by His Majesty King Husayn, Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak about the mounting threat of war in the region, Badran said that such statements "are aimed at exposing Israeli aggressive intentions and serve as a deterrent that could help us avoid a certain disaster."

He said Jordan has successfully brought world attention to the threats inherent in Israeli extremism.

**Domestic policy**

Dismissing criticism of his government's handling of the economy, Badran said his government had adopted a national economic plan which has already paid off in narrowing the budget deficit, increasing exports and establishing stability that is conducive to new investments.

He said this economic plan "may have some negative aspects in terms of squeezing expenditure and increasing the tax burden, but these are sacrifices that every society must bear if it wants to reform its economy."

Responding to claims by parliamentarians that his economic policies did not go beyond the structural adjustment programme adopted in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, without a solution to unemployment and inflation, Badran said: "Those who say that we have no economic policies know very little about economic and social matters or have a shallow knowledge of the subject. Jordan is going through a clear economic plan. The exchange rate has been stabilised and there are no more price fluctuations the way they were before. Exports have made great leaps and investments have started coming back. All this is an integral part of the economic policy and not a superficial action or a reaction to a specific situation. But the economy needs a long time before it can recover fully. There are social problems such as unemployment, and some say the government had not solved the problem after four or five months...if the unemployment crisis could be solved in four months, then this is not a crisis. There are superpowers that fail to handle unemployment for years. These are not problems that can be solved in months. We need economic stability and investments...and this is what we are doing now. Exports have hit a record this year and we are going in the right direction. There is no magic solution."

Badran said the government has also adopted a labour policy that reduces dependence on foreign labourers and encourages Jordanians to travel abroad, particularly to Gulf Arab states, to take new jobs. He said Jordan has already reached agreements with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Yemen and Libya under which Jordanians would be welcome to take jobs in these countries.

The prime minister, who said the government was incapable of providing new jobs for 45,000 people each year, is planning to boost the private sector and privatise some governmental institutions.

He explained that government institutions such as Royal Jordanian, which has suffered big losses over the past five years, would be left to cover their losses on their own. "The government has no resources to cover such institutions' deficits. We are committed to spending as specified in the budget. This is our policy."

Responding to a question on the lessons learned from the disturbances which marred last May's demonstrations condemning a massacre of Palestinians by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv, the prime minister said that he feared that things, "may have gone out of control which would have meant a disaster that nobody wanted."

He explained that the three-day demonstrations "could have resulted in breaking national unity and a rift that would have taken a long time to heal...this is a time when we need to join hands and hearts."

He expressed hope that these incidents "would not recur," and warned that "if they did recur, we would not consider such disturbances as spontaneous actions, but a foreign plan aimed at undermining the security and stability of this country, and would be treated decisively, seriously and swiftly. It would be dealt with differently."

The prime minister denied claims that he had struck "a deal" with the Islamic Bloc at the Lower House of Parliament or that he was allied with the Muslim Brotherhood to guarantee support for his policies.

He explained that while he "insisted that the Islamic Bloc should join the government, it was they who refused to join and preferred to stay outside.

"It makes me laugh how the Islamic Bloc accuses me of not responding to their demands while the others accuse me of responding only to the Islamic Bloc," Badran said.

## Comments Further on Arab Issues

*JN0207144290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has emphasized that there is no conflict between the rule of law and democracy in any given society. In an interview published by the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH today, the prime minister said that without the sovereignty of law, democracy cannot survive. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait have extended subsidies to Jordan, for which we are grateful, the prime minister said. We see no link between Jordan's political experience and the financial support it is receiving. Nor do we see any decrease in the level of assistance. Indeed, the assistance is always increasing.

We view the emergence of permanent peace between Iraq and Iran as a source of strength for the whole region, including Syria. Contrary to the implication of the newspaper's question, an Iraqi-Iranian thaw would eliminate a major irritant in relations between sisterly Iraq and Syria rather than exacerbate them. He emphasized that Syria is playing its full role in the Arab community. He did not see the divergence of views between brothers as leading to a break.

The prime minister said Egypt maintains distinguished relations with the United States, and a good many Arab states also have close ties with the U.S. Administration. After a careful study of the American arena, the Arabs may invest more in these relations. This study, Mr. Badran added, should draw on all the documents being published on the Arab-Israeli conflict, which point clearly to a clear strategic objective of Israel's—namely, sabotaging relations between the United States and Arab countries and denying the latter access to American and Western technology. If we are to avoid inevitable catastrophe in the region, we must take note of Israel's hostile intentions, the prime minister said.

Arab countries, above all Jordan, have drawn the attention of the international community to the risks inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, and the Soviet Union seems to be coming round to the Arab point of view. The makeup of the new Israeli Government has heightened the world's awareness of the threat it poses to peace in the region. This should usher in international deterrence to Israeli extremism. The prime minister cited the example of the statement issued by the EC Dublin summit, which underscored the gravity of the Mideast situation and the need to protect the Palestinian people from Israeli aggression. All these international moves, the prime minister added, might make the prospect of an armed regional conflict, which we are striving to avert, less likely. [passage omitted]

### Editorial Views Senate Motion on Iraq Sanctions

*JN3006091990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Jun 90 pp 1, 24*

[Editorial: "A Hostile Decision"]

[Text] American provocations against Iraq and the Arab nation have entered a new stage with the decision adopted by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee the day before yesterday. The committee decided to draft a resolution calling for economic sanctions on Iraq. This was based on allegations that Iraq violated human rights, used chemical weapons, and threatened Israel with these weapons.

We note that the decision came in the wake of the libelous propaganda campaign led by American and Israeli quarters against Baghdad, thus showing that there is a connection between the two. The decision also shows that American hostility against sisterly Iraq is now moving from a propaganda act to an economic act. All Arabs should be aware of this development. It is not unlikely that this will be the prelude to military aggression on Iraq.

The seriousness of this view cannot be downplayed by the claim that the U.S. Administration did not wish to make this decision. It is obvious that Washington contributed in large part to the campaign of hatred against Iraq; the decision is one of the results of this hostile campaign, and, consequently, the U.S. Administration cannot avoid the consequences.

We should recall that the United States' anti-Arab role is an integral one, coordinated between Congress and the Administration. An example of this is the decision adopted by Congress—the House and Senate—declaring that Arab Jerusalem is part of Israel's capital.

We should also recall that the decision was followed by a series of aggressive measures taken by the U.S. Administration. These measures are the veto to prevent the Security Council from dispatching an envoy to the occupied territory after the black Sunday massacre, the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO, the decision by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to impose economic sanctions on Iraq, and the draft resolution on sanctions sent to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee for approval.

This shows the hostile tide against the Arabs in the United States. It should be faced with an earnest Arab performance in line with the magnitude of the dangers inherent in the suspect American move.

Washington will be playing with fire if it believes that it can present the Arab region as an easy morsel on a silver platter to Israel. The campaigns of hatred, economic sanctions, and direct and indirect threats will never succeed in making Iraq and the Arabs fall on their knees. It would be useful for Washington to be aware that the time of adventures is past and that the aggressors will be responsible for the consequences of their aggression. They should be certain that the aggression cannot be met with olive branches.

### U.S. Urged To Opt For International Conference

*JN0107074690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Jul 90 pp 1,20*

[Editorial: "The Required U.S. Revision"]

[Text] Now that Israeli official circles have leaked the contents of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's letter to U.S. President George Bush over the past few days, it is obvious that the efforts which the U.S. Administration has been exerting for well over a year have collided with the wall of frank Israeli rejection.

And, while we are not surprised by this outcome for the efforts made by President Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker and our vision has not been blurred by the violent U.S. collision with the rock of Israeli rejection, we do not see the possibility of a U.S. political awakening returning to the United States the respect and confidence it has lost as a result of its continuous submission to Israeli arrogance.

Therefore, we are not asking anything from the United States, which has received several painful political slaps from its spoiled strategic ally, other than to tell us clearly and frankly that it has failed to make the fanatic rightwing Israeli government budge an inch from its rigid stands and that it is therefore washing its hands of the diplomatic efforts concerning the Middle East crisis. The United States is also expected to courageously criticize its old policy of trying to monopolize the peace issue in the region now that it has failed and the facts have become known to everyone.

Such a U.S. stand, which would not entail punishment of Israel or the exertion of any pressure on it resulting in Zionist counterpressure, would return the whole issue to the United Nations and its Security Council and show respect for the unanimity of international will. Such a stand would also reactivate the role of international legitimacy and its institutions in settling regional conflicts.

We do not doubt that by reaching such a conclusion the United States would open the path anew to the international conference option, which Israel has often aborted with the encouragement of successive U.S. Administrations, especially now that this conference is viewed as the practical alternative and the way out of the dilemma faced by unilateral U.S. efforts to achieve progress on the path of peace.

## Editorial Views Soviet, U.S. Mideast Positions

*JN0107080490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Jun 90 pp 1, 24*

[Editorial: "The Imminent Explosion"]

[Text] The Soviet Union's warning that there is bound to be an explosion if the current Middle East situation continues is based on a wider knowledge of the political and security map of the region and an accurate analysis of the minute details of the sitution, due to the Soviet Union's direct contact with the Middle East issue.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry's statement containing this warning almost condemns the United States when it says the United States "does not show a strong political will and does not exert more efforts to solve the conflict."

The truth is that Soviet concern over "the obstacles facing the peace process in the Middle East" is sincere because it comes from a superpower which understands its moral responsibility and knows the minute details of the conflict and the side which rejects human rights and resorts to complete U.S. support which is transformed into bullets and bombs that threaten our kinflolk and enable the aggressors to continue their aggression.

We know that the United States is showing strong political will and is exerting efforts, but not in the direction meant by the Soviet Foreign Ministry's statement. They oppose the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights to their land, to protection from Zionist terrorism, and to an independent state on the soil of their fathers and forefathers like all other nations.

We know very well know that this completely biased policy against a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region has enabled the Israeli occupation authorities to hamper peace efforts.

The situation will remain the same despite the U.S. President's statement yesterday about his country's commitment to peace in the Middle East, his concern over an imbalance in the peace process and his affirmation that the stalemate of the process is unacceptable to all, because U.S. understanding of peace is based on Israel's views even if they differ with Israel on some details.

The conditions for peace are known and clear. Mainly, they are: implementing the resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly, exchanging land for peace by withdrawal from the occupied territories, recognizing the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people and dealing with it as a principle party to the Middle East conflict, stopping settlements and recognizing the Arabism of Jerusalem.

We support any U.S. effort which ensures lasting and comprehensive peace. We oppose the stalemate in the peace process caused by Israeli arrogance and the attempts to force the surrender of this glorious nation or impose partial solutions on it.

Therefore, we agree with the Soviet statement which says that the region is ready to explode at any moment due to Israel's strict adherence to the Torah and belief in war, expansion, and settlements policies. We know that our struggler Arab nation has huge resources and brave traditions which cannot be exhausted. Moreover, it will find the means with which to use these resources and traditions in order to defend itself, its culture, and future.

## Hizballah Announces Operations Against U.S.

*LD0307111290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1008 GMT 3 Jul 90*

[Text] Hamburg (ADN)—The Lebanese terrorist organization Hizballah announced new commando operations against Israel, the United States, and West Europe. In a prereleased interview for the Hamburg magazine STERN, Husayn Musavi, leader of the Shi'a extremist group, said that attacks are the only means of "defense against the Zionist occupation of Palestinian land." With the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories—in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank—the plan for a "greater Israel" will be put into practice. Israel must be "wiped out and eradicated."

The Hizballah leader ruled out the release of further U.S. hostages. However, the German hostages Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kempner, who were abducted over a year ago in Lebanon, will be released immediately if brothers Muhammad 'Ali and 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, imprisoned in the Federal Republic, are released. The federal government promised this back in 1988.

## 'Awn Denies Syria Mediating With Al-Hirawi

*LD0207151190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1345 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] Kuwait, July 2 (KUNA)—Former commander of the Lebanese Army Gen. Michel 'Awn Monday [2 July] denied that Syria was mediating between him and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and reaffirmed his support to the Vatican's peace intiative for Lebanon.

Speaking to daily AL-WATAN, in an interview published here today, 'Awn said until now there is no mediation activity and Syria is letting things interact freely while still adhering to the Al-Ta'if accord as an introduction for solution in Lebanon.

(?He) [words indistinct] the initiative by the Vatican should be supported to secure its success. "It is sponsored by an important international party," 'Awn said, stressing that Syria's role in the Lebanese crisis is fundamental, providing its military and political weight on the Lebanese territory.

He added that Syria could play a supportive role in the success of the Vatican's initiative, noting that the situation in Lebanon is "unbearable".

'Awn criticised the American "negative" stance on Lebanon, expressing hope that Washington would recognize Lebanon as a sovereign and free country.

## Minister Says Government Rejected 'Awn Demands

*NC0307095790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Jul 90*

[Text] Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin has said that the initiatives launched by certain European parties stemmed from prior recognition of the national accord document. If there are problems with these initiatives, he added, General 'Awn is to blame.

He noted that 'Awn, who recently found himself burdened with successive losses, attempted to find a way out by exaggerating his demands. Sometimes he wants to be deputy prime minister and at other times he wants the government to be re-formed and the constitutional laws to be restudied, said al-Khazin, asserting that the Council of Ministers rejected all of these demands.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper, al-Khazin pointed out that the government is open to all parties not represented in it and said that their participation in the government will make its resolutions 100 percent legitimate.

## Arab Envoy Ibrahimi Arrives, Meets Al-Hirawi

### Discusses Tripartite Committee

*NC3006104390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Arab Committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived in Beirut from Damascus at noon today. Immediately upon his arrival, he met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi to brief him on the outcome of the Arab Tripartite Committee's recent moves regarding Lebanon and on the details of the talks held by Syrian officials with Sa'ud al-Faysal, member of the committee and Saudi foreign minister. The talks are expected to end today.

### Holds Second Meeting

*NC0107181290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi for the second time today. In a statement to the NNA [National News Agency], Ibrahimi said that the current stage is replete both with bright prospects and with enormous dangers. He expressed the hope that the Lebanese will utilize the opportunities for a solution and urged them to avert the dangers.

The Arab envoy went on to say that he who thinks that by pursuing his selfish rejectionist course he will be able to achieve personal and national objectives is mistaken. This stand can only harm the national interest, Ibrahimi added.

Ibrahimi briefed President al-Hirawi on the outcome of the Arab committee's exchanges and consultations with Vatican and Italian Government officials in Rome, and with French and Syrian officials. He pointed out that all such exchanges confirm the importance that the Arabs and foreigners attach to Lebanon. Ibrahimi added that there is a chance of achieving progress and resolving the Lebanese crisis.

In his statement to the NNA, the Arab envoy said: I told his excellency the president that those we met have become confident that the legitimate Lebanese authority is the basis for any solution. They also believe that any solution should be worked out in accordance with the Al-Ta'if agreement, which remains the basis for ending the crisis and war and for opening the prospects of peace in a united, democratic, free, and independent Lebanon.

Ibrahimi expressed the hope that the Lebanese institutions will resume work and that a new parliament will be elected once the fighting is over. He pointed out that he had submitted the text of a plan for the establishment of an international fund, adding that this fund constitutes the most important step in the current stage. Ibrahimi expressed the hope that the fund will be established in September.

The Arab envoy concluded his statement by conveying his congratulations to the Lebanese people on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

### Departs Beirut

*NC0107195490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Excerpt] AFP has cited a reliable source as saying that Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi left Beirut this evening after briefing President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the outcome of the Arab committee's exchanges in the Vatican, France, and Syria. [passage omitted]

## Lebanese Forces Source Denies Hubayqah Statements

*NC3006084590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Statement by "a responsible source" in the Lebanese Forces]

[Excerpts] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS has published an interview with Elie Hubayqah, containing numerous fallacies and false charges. We wonder how a respected paper such as AL-QABAS could publish an interview with a man who took terrorism as his weapon and agentry as his method and who, as everyone will testify, is one of the worst results of the Lebanese war. [passage omitted]

We find ourselves compelled to explain the following points:

1. Elie Hubayqah says the Lebanese Forces' strength is derived from Israel. If it is true that any party supported by Israel should be strong, then Hubayqah should have been the strongest party in the Lebanese arena and Hubayqah would not have been ousted from the eastern area after this area had ejected him because of his duplicitious agentry;

2. Hubayqah says there is an agreement between the Lebanese Forces and Israel to settle 20,000 to 40,000 Christian Palestinians in Jubayl and Kasrawan. On this subject, we make the following remarks:

a. We ask Hubayqah what party supplied him with this information and where the revelation descended on him to utter such platitudes. [passage omitted]

b. Does Hubayqah want to convince the world that the movement of 20,000 or 40,000 Palestinians from Israel to Lebanon will solve the West Bank problem or the problem of absorbing millions of Soviet Jews?

c. The Lebanese Forces position on the issue of settlement is as clear as the sun. The Lebanese Forces declared in the past and declares today that it rejects the settlement of any Palestinian on any inch of Lebanese soil;

d. The one working to evict the Christians from Lebanon is the one who incited this war in the past and who is today fueling it by supplying the party, which represents an insurmountable obstacle to peace, with tools of destruction and subversion;

3. Regarding his denial of transporting arms and ammunition to Michel 'Awn, this is an utter lie. Hubayqah may be able to convince some simple people about this matter, but he cannot convince those who are aware of the Lebanese situation. [passage omitted];

4. As for Hubayqah's stand on President Ilyas al-Hirawi's move to the presidential palace in B'abda, it is the irony of fate in Lebanon that a person such as Hubayqah should permit himself to decide the place of residence of the head of state. Indeed this is the age of wonders and prodigies.

## Further on Israeli Military Reinforcements

*NC3006055290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli occupation authorities have deployed military convoys and reinforcements to positions in the Hasbayya sector over the past few hours. A convoy of 10 vehicles, including five tanks, arrived on the Burghuz front. A second convoy of nine vehicles, including three tanks, arrived in the Kawkaba position, and a third convoy of eight vehicles arrived in (al-Shrifi).

The arrival of the Israeli reinforcements coincided with the third inspection tour of the border area by senior Israeli officers within 48 hours. Security sources expressed fears that the Israeli military movements could be a prelude to the launching of an attack, particularly since the occupation authorities have announced that they will close the crossing points along the occupied border area for one week.

## Israeli Planes Draw Antiaircraft Fire Over Sidon

*NC0207164090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been flying over Sidon and southern areas since 1800 today, drawing antiaircraft fire.

### Squadron Stages Mock Raids

*NC0207193690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] A squadron of Israeli warplanes staged mock raids over the area from Sidon to Khaldah and Tilal al-Na'imah at 2120 today. By 2145, the planes had fired several flares.

Israeli gunboats were sighted cruising off the coast of the same area.

### Nasirite, Lahd Forces Clash in South; 2 Killed

*NC0207152490 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] The military situation between Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] forces and agent Lahd's militia erupted violently on the Kafr Falus front at noon today.

According to reports from the South, fighting involving all types of weapons, especially rockets and tank weapons, is raging between the two parties along the lines separating them.

An official source in the NP0 has made a statement saying: In continuation of the crime committed this morning, and in accordance with the wishes of those who are harmed by the model security and democracy enjoyed by the city of Sidon, agent Lahd's gangs triggered the military situation on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir front at noon today. They rained rocket fire on the residential areas along the Sidon-Kafr Falus line, killing two NPO members and causing heavy material losses.

### Fighting Continues in South

*NC0207171890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] The clashes between the Popular Liberation Army—The Forces of Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd and agent Lahd's forces are continuing east of Sidon. Various types of weapons are being used in the clashes. Four members of the Popular Liberation Army have been martyred as a result of the exchange of artillery shelling on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a front.

### Amal-Hizballah 'Skirmishes' Reported in South

*NC0307090890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 3 Jul 90*

[Text] Intermittent skirmishes involving machine guns and mortar shells are taking place between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen on Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines.

In Eastern Sidon the South Lebanese Army and fundamentalist gunmen, using machine guns and rockets, are clashing on Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines.

### Foreign Ministry Decrees Transfer Ambassadors

*NC2806132290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 28 Jun 90*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued Decree No. 339 transferring Ambassador Fakhri Saghiyah from the Lebanese Embassy in Athens and appointing him ambassador to Mexico. He is replacing Ambassador Amin al-Khazin, who has been appointed head of Lebanon's permanent mission to the UN office in Geneva. Ambassador Joseph 'Aql is also transferred from the Berlin embassy and appointed ambassador in Bogota, Colombia.

According to another decree, No. 340, Ambassador Mustafah Huraybah is transferred from the Central Department and appointed ambassador to Venezuela. Ilyas Ghusn, who was Lebanon's consul general in Marseilles, has been appointed ambassador in Athens.

## Cypriot President Vasiliou Arrives

### Holds Talks With Al-Asad

*JN3006110590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Excerpts] Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou arrived in Damascus at 1015 today on a visit to Syria at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad. President al-Asad headed those welcoming the Cypriot president at Damascus International Airport.

The Cypriot president was received on landing by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Cypriot Ambassador Nikolaos Makris. [passage omitted]

Afterward President al-Asad and his high-ranking guest left in an official motorcade for Tishrin Palace, the visiting president's place of residence. The two men held a meeting at Tishrin Palace which was attended for Syria by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and for Cyprus by Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou, the accompanying delegation, and the Cypriot ambassador.

### Interviewed by Syrian Arab TV

*JN3006071390 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jun 90*

[Text] On the occasion of his visit to Syria [beginning 30 June], the Syrian Arab Television team interviewed Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou. President Vasiliou stated that his visit to Syria has great importance because of the strong relations of friendship binding the two peoples and countries. He said that he is looking forward to meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad: A leader I appreciate greatly, and I hope that our talks will be constructive and beneficial.

On relations between Cyprus and Syria, President Vasiliou said that historically, they have been excellent relations which did not start with the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus, but go back to ancient times when the two friendly people lived in excellent neighborliness and serious cooperation. Since the Republic of Cyprus was established 30 years ago, these relations have developed in tangible form. I hope my visit to Syria will bring about the necessary circumstances for further development in the fields of trade, economy, and tourism.

On Syria's role in the region, President Vasiliou said: Syria is one of the most important countries in the region. President Hafiz al-Asad plays a very important role in regional developments. It is illogical for anyone to believe that it is possible to make progress toward a solution to the problems of the region without the participation and approval of Syria. President Vasiliou added: We hope that through Syria's initiative, and especially the constructive role of President al-Asad, it will become possible to solve these problems, especially the problems of Lebanon and Palestine.

Concerning the emigration of Jews to the occupied Arab territories and Israel's expansionist goals, President Vasiliou said: Before I say anything else, I wish to clarify that Cyprus did not and will not play any role in transporting Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union to Israel. As everyone knows, Cyprus suffered and continues to suffer, from illegal settlers. Therefore, it is illogical for anyone to imagine that Cyprus, which suffered and continues to suffer because of settlements, will support, or participate in, Israel's settlement of the Palestinian territories it is occupying. For this reason, Cyprus has not and will not play any role in this matter. We explained this to all our friends.

### Al-Asad, Vasiliou Resume Talks

*JN0107070490 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou resumed their talks at 1800 today in a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace.

Talks centered on the international situation, developments in Europe, the situation in the Middle East region and the Mediterranean basin, and bilateral relations.

### Al-Shar' Meets Cypriot Minister

*JN0107070790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1744 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Damascus, 30 Jun (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Cypriot Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou.

During the meeting, they discussed the international situation and developments in the region, especially the Arab-Israeli struggle and the situation in Cyprus.

### Al-Asad Addresses Banquet

*JN0107085790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Jul 90*

["Text" of speech delivered by President Hafiz al-Asad at banquet given for honor of Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou at the Damascene Hall in Damascus on 30 June; read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency President Yeoryios Vasiliou; dear guests; gentlemen.

Mr. President, it pleases me to warmly welcome you and the members of the Cypriot delegation, and to wish you a good stay in Damascus. I am thus expressing the sentiments of friendship harbored by the Syrian Arab people toward the people of the Republic of Cyprus—the neighboring country from which we are separated by only a few scores of kilometers of Mediterranean waters. History indicates that these waters were a channel for communication and a tool for forging multifaceted ties of cooperation between our two countries in ancient and intermediate history. Nowadays, and with the far-reaching developments in transport and communications, these waters have enhanced our rapprochement.

The Mediterranean waters, which served as a means for communication, sometimes brought dangers to the eastern Mediterranean region targeting both of our countries. Syria, along with other Nonaligned Movement member states, have long called for making our region, and the Mediterranean basin, which links three continents, a region of peace and amity. We have continued to call and work for achieving this objective, despite resistance from parties with a vested interest in maintaining hotbeds of tension in our region—something which poses dangerous threats to regional and world peace.

If we believe that the security of this region's countries is inseparable from European security, we are dutybound to affirm the inseparableness of our two countries' security, given their past deep-rooted ties, their present ties of friendship, and their geographic location and proximity.

We are struggling to achieve peace in our region with a view to finding just and durable solutions to the crises which exacerbate tension therein. From this premise, the Syrian Arab Republic is striving to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of UN resolutions and through an international peace conference, which convened in 1973 under UN auspices with the participation of the United States and the USSR. We believe that resuming the work of this conference can provide a propitious opportunity for achieving a just and lasting peace. Likewise, Syria supports the efforts being made by the United Nations to reach a solution to the Cypriot conflict in accordance with the UN resolutions—a solution that would ensure the unity and nonaligned status of Cyprus and that would also safeguard the interests of all Cypriots.

Mr. President, your visit has given us a good opportunity for building a personal relationship and also for exchanging views on the current situation in the eastern Mediterranean region and also on the international situation, which is witnessing far-reaching changes that will have significant repercussions on international relations. I was pleased with our talks today, as they invoke optimism. Besides, these talks highlighted the fact that we are committed to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement to which we belong and whose presence on the world scene we strive to consolidate. Our talks also underscored our common desire to develop ties between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Cyprus.

An exchange of visits by government, party, and popular delegations from our two countries is evidence that this desire is being translated into tangible reality. We would like to develop these exchanges to bolster bilateral ties and joint action in the interest of the two countries, to serve the cause of peace and justice, and to show support for the rights of the world's people.

I welcome you once again and wish you continued good health and happiness and peace and further prosperity for the friendly Cypriot people.

Gentlemen, I kindly ask you to toast Syria's guest, President Yeoryios Vasiliou. To the enhancement of Syrian-Cypriot friendship.

### Vasiliou Addresses Banquet

*JN0107092990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Jul 90*

["Text" of speech delivered by Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou at banquet hosted by President Hafiz al-Asad at the Damascene Hall in Damascus on 30 June; read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, dear friends: Permit me first to thank you for your warm greetings and noble words of welcome addressed to us. It is a great pleasure and source of satisfaction for me and my delegation to be in the Syrian Arab Republic. For a long time, I have had the desire to come to your country to renew and enhance the ties of friendship between our two countries—ties that date back to ancient times. I am very pleased to be in Damascus.

The warm welcome, the hospitality accorded to us, and the friendliness marking our meetings today, as well as the very interesting and frank talks we have just held, have affirmed our mutual desire to build on the foundations of the ties of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between us, Cyprus and Syria, which share many things in common.

As a matter of fact, the history of our two nations has been interlinked not only over hundreds of years, but over thousands of years. A narrow area of the Mediterranean separates us, but ties dating back to ancient history link us. Our bilateral ties have developed rapidly since independence. As for the scope of bilateral cooperation, this has expanded to include numerous fields that are mutually beneficial. I hope that the outcome of this visit will enable us to build on the foundations of these excellent ties and to work and enhance our cooperation in all spheres, including economic, trade, and touristic fields, as well as cultural exchanges and all other domains. In addition to our excellent bilateral ties, our two countries have developed fruitful cooperation on the international scene within the framework of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and many other international organizations to which our two countries belong.

I would like to take the opportunity provided by my visit to your country, Mr. President, to say again that Cyprus has firmly supported and continues to support Arab states in their cause. We would like to express our firm support for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference to be attended by all parties whose participation is needed to achieve a just, comprehensive, and durable peace and also to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. We are living in a world where conflicts have begun to be resolved. The world should not leave one of the most long-standing problems unresolved. A settlement of this problem can only be attained when the Palestinian people's rights are secured in full and also when a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and particularly the Golan Heights, is accomplished.

Meanwhile, I would like to reiterate that the colonization of the occupied Arab territories is a violation of the international law. We strongly oppose this colonization. Cyprus has its own reasons to oppose colonization, because Cyprus was a victim of an illegal colonization by foreign colonizers.

On this occasion, I would like to thank you for Syria's support for Cyprus' independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and nonaligned status. We are currently doing our best to achieve a just and durable solution to the Cypriot problem through the establishment of a confederation that would enable all Cypriots, be they Greeks or Turks, to live in peace and security. This Cyprus will be demilitarized and friendly to all nations of the region.

Stability and peace in Cyprus will largely contribute to the maintenance of peace in our region.

I would like now to propose a toast to the health and happiness of President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic and all our Syrian friends, to the success and prosperity of the Syrian people, further enhancement of the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, and to a durable and enduring peace in our region and on earth.

### Continues Talks With Al-Asad

*JN0107183690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou resumed their talks at 1100 today in an expanded meeting attended on the Syrian side by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Deputy Prime Minister Mahmud Qaddur; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah; Information Minister Muhammad Salman; Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs; and the Syrian charge d'affairs in Cyprus.

On the Cypriot side, the meeting was attended by the official delegation accompanying President Vasiliou.

The two presidents met in a closed session at 1200 today during which they continued their talks. [passage omitted]

### Further on Meeting

*JN0107184290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou resumed their talks at 1100 today in an expanded meeting attended on the Syrian side by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Deputy Prime Minister Mahmud Qaddur; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah; Information Minister Muhammad Salman; Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs; and the Syrian charge d'affairs in Cyprus.

On the Cypriot side, the meeting was attended by the official delegation accompanying President Vasiliou.

The two presidents held a closed meeting at 1200 today during which they continued their talks.

During the two meetings, the two sides completed their discussion of issues related to the international situation, developments in Europe, developments and conditions in the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin, and improving the Syrian-Cypriot ties in various fields.

Emphasis was placed during the talks on the need to establish a just peace in the Middle East and on the connection between this peace and the improvement of international relations and peace and security in Europe.

### Vasiliou on Mideast Solution

*JN0107185190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] [Cypriot] President Vasiliou has said that his government wishes to establish the best possible relations with Arab countries in all possible fields. In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, the Cypriot President said that his current visit to Syria is one many visits he intends to pay to most of the Arab countries. He also said he hoped that the largest possible number of Arab leaders would visit Cyprus.

Vasiliou emphasized that his country has always supported the Arab countries and has always supported the Palestinian cause, and that it will continue to do so until a just peace is achieved, a peace that will restore to the Palestinians their rights and will leave no Arab territory occupied. He said, however, that Cyprus also has a cause to defend and that it needs Arab Governments' support for this cause. He said that his government seeks to establish a federal union that will enable all Cypriots to live in peace and security.

The Cypriot president emphatically denied that the island of Cyprus has been used as a transit point for the new Jewish emigrants. He said this has not taken place at all, and will not take place in the future. He also denied that Israel had asked his Government for such a thing.

On peace in the Middle East, Vasiliou said that he fully supports what President Hafiz al-Asad stated last night. President al-Asad had declared during a dinner banquet that Syria is struggling for a just and comprehensive solution on the basis of UN resolutions and through an international peace conference. The Syrian president added that this constitutes a suitable opportunity for the attainment of a just and stable peace.

President al-Asad had also stated that Syria supports efforts to settle the conflict in Cyprus in accordance with UN resolutions; a solution that will secure the unity of Cyprus and its nonalignment, and that will take into account the interests of all Cypriots.

### Signs Political Cooperation Agreement

*NC0107204890 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 2000 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Cyprus and Syria signed an agreement today to establish political cooperation through regular contacts between their foreign ministers. The agreement was the result of talks, which lasted for a total of 10 hours, between President Yeoryios Vasiliou and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who also held long separate talks on cooperation in the political and other fields.

Within the framework of this agreement, the two foreign ministers will meet every six months for political talks. So far, this sort of cooperation has existed only with Greece, and Syria is the second country with which Cyprus is establishing such relations.

According to our special correspondent in Damascus, observers in the Syrian capital pointed out that the talks lasted much longer than scheduled and for this reason President Vasiliou's return to Cyprus this evening was delayed. The observers also noted that the warm atmosphere of the talks and the absolute understanding shown by both parties are not irrelevant to the fact that both Cyprus and Syria are victims of Turkish expansionism. The same observers went on to say that the full meaning of the agreement must be appraised in light of Syria's leading position in the Arab world, a fact which increases the value of the agreement.

The agreement on political cooperation is included in the Cyprus-Syrian protocol for cooperation in the economic, commercial, and tourism fields. Within the framework of this cooperation, a mixed committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the two countries' foreign ministers. Another two ministers from each country will also participate in the committee, which will meet once a year to promote cooperation measures. Specifically, it was agreed to cooperate in the telecommunications, transport, tourism, and agricultural sectors.

At a news conference he gave shortly before his departure from Damascus, President Vasiliou said that his visit and the signing of the protocol have laid the bases for the further development and strengthening of the already close and warm relations between Cyprus and Syria.

### Holds Damascus News Conference

*JN0207065090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou held a news conference at his residence in Tishrin Palace this afternoon. The press conference was attended by a large group of media men and correspondents of Arab and world news agencies, television networks, and the press.

Beginning the news conference, President Vasiliou said: I would like to express heartfelt thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for the hospitality we were accorded. President Vasiliou added: Everybody knows that relations between Cyprus and Syria have always been excellent. On this visit, we laid the grounds for developing, bolstering, and strengthening bilateral relations. Thus, the objective of the visit has been achieved.

He said: I am glad to have had the opportunity to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and to exchange views with him. Although the visit was short, our meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad, which lasted approximately eight hours, gave us an opportunity to discuss developments in Syria and Cyprus. President Hafiz al-Asad acquainted me with Arab developments. During the talks, we exchanged views on many matters and issues that concern our two countries.

President Vasiliou stated: I would like to express my satisfaction with the atmosphere surrounding the talks and with the extensive development the relations between the two countries will undergo. The Cypriot president noted that he presented President Hafiz al-Asad with a complete analysis of the efforts made by the Government of Cyprus to reach a fair solution to the Cypriot problem on the basis of a federal union that will guarantee the people of Cyprus—Greek and Turkish—a peaceful and secure life, and that will guarantee Cyprus' unity, sovereignty, and neutrality. He thanked Syria for its support on this issue, and said: The evidence that our talks were successful is the formation of a general joint committee chaired by the two countries' foreign ministers and including three [as heard] other ministers from each country. The committee will meet every six months [as heard] to follow and coordinate economic, trade, and political activity. The committee will also discuss ways to develop these relations. There will also be joint investments and cooperation in transportation, communications, and agriculture.

President Vasiliou said: Cyprus is part of Europe and plays the role of liaison between the Middle East and Europe. He expressed the hope that the partition of the island will not exist much longer.

He said: The Middle East crisis has been going on for very long time. He also said that he does not see any reason for the continuation of this situation. He affirmed Cyprus' support for the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to establish their state in their homeland, saying that it is time to put an end to this tragedy which endangers peace not only in this region but also in the entire world. He stressed that Cyprus supports an international peace conference on the Middle East and calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territory, including Syrian Golan.

Concluding the news conference, President Vasiliou reiterated his gratitude to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for the hospitality accorded to the members of the Cypriot delegation.

### Concludes Visit, Departs 1 Jul

*JN0107191290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Excerpt] Damascus, 1 Jul (SANA)—Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou left Damascus at 1815 today concluding a two-day visit to Syria at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad.

President Hafiz al-Asad headed those who saw him off at Damascus international airport. [passage omitted

### TISHRIN Praises Solidarity

*JN0207060090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary today under the headline "For the Sake of Strengthening Syrian-Cypriot Relations," the newspaper TISHRIN says that Cypriot President Vasiliou's visit to Syria at President Hafiz al-Asad's invitation emphasizes the firm ties of friendship that bind the Syrian Arab and Cypriot peoples, relations that President Vasiliou has described as special relations at all times.

TISHRIN says: Within this context, the Cypriot president's visit to Syria provides a new climate for exchanging views on conditions in the region and the world and for realizing a further identity of views, given that the international situation is witnessing major changes that have important repercussions on international relations.

The paper notes the Cypriot president's support for President al-Asad's declaration that Syria's aim is to transform the Mediterranean Sea into a lake of peace, and says that the implementation of this aim will reduce the tension in the region and contribute toward establishing a peaceful solution.

TISHRIN adds: Indeed, note must be taken of Cyprus' eagerness to support the Arab people's just struggle to realize peace in the region and enhance the opportunity of finding a comprehensive solution for regional issues, led by the Arab-Zionist dispute. This has prompted Cyprus to adopt a foreign policy based on effective solidarity with Arab causes and to endeavor to help implement UN resolutions within international charters that stress that all sorts of expansion, occupation, and aggression must be resisted. Therefore, all of these aims will be discussed by President al-Asad and President Vasiliou to obtain positive results in the interests the two friendly people have in common.

## Afghanistan

### Najibullah Delivers Party Central Committee Report

*LD2806224390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 27 Jun 90*

[People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, Central Committee report delivered by President Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, to the second PDPA congress on 27 June in Kabul—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate. Dear representatives, esteemed participants of the congress, dear friends, and audience: Today, 27 June 1990, the second congress of the PDPA began its work. The convocation of this great gathering of credible representatives of the party rank and file after a lull of almost 26 years is of great importance both for our party and our country. The second party congress is being convened in special circumstances in terms of party life, the developments inside the country, and the international situation. Domestically, great changes have taken place in various levels of the political, social, and economic life of our country during the period of the party activity. Having reviewed, in detail, the incidents before and after the change of Solor 1357 [April 1978], one can easily reach the conclusion that during that period, many events occured that were, in many cases accompanied by violence and confrontation. What draws even more attention is the situation that has taken shape in the country during the past 13 years. Over that period, Afghanistan was engulfed in such bloody and destructive incidents that paying attention to that grave fact all patriotic elements, including members of the PDPA who have had no goal but the happiness of the people and the progress of the country, come to the conclusion that an end must be put to the painful situation caused by the war and armed confrontation.

It is natural that our party, as a part of society, could not avoid those changes and incidents. It can even be said it rested in the center of most of the incidents and changes. During its quarter of a century of existence it has experienced many ups and downs, passed through various stages, and gone through many successes and difficulties. It is to be clearly said that our party's experience and struggle had both positive and plausible and negative and inplausible aspects.

The present situation inside the country, which definitely cannot be separated from international circumstances, led the party to decide on the review of its program, policy, and action.

Internationally, fundamental changes have taken place to cease confrontation, to revive and strengthen detent, to put an end to the arms race and secure disarmament, to de-ideologize international relations, and to encourage mutually useful cooperation for the advance of democracy and the observance of human rights. Hopeful changes have also taken place in the exercise of international relations, especially in relations between great powers, to make the world safer for all of humanity. It has left a positive impact on the settlement of various world problems, among them regional disputes, and has increased the inclination towards the political solution of regional disputes.

Those factors necessitated the convocation of the highest party gathering, namely, the PDPA Congress. Therefore as a first step, the aims and duties of the congress are to be specified. In this respect, I would like to draw the attention of participating esteemed comrades in this grand party gathering to the fact that our country and party are at a definitive and vital stage of changes. We should set out our present situation, briefly assessing the experiences of past years and considering our society's developments, expediencies, and priorities and with attention to deveopments at the international level, and we should state the course of the party movement in the future. Such are the specific duties that rest before the congress and that we should consider.

In assessing the developments, requirements, and priorities of our society, and in consideration of developments at the international level, we must specify our present situation and clarify the future direction of the party. These are the specific objectives and duties that are before the congress, and we must consider them. The work of the congress, naturally, must begin and end with the realization of these objectives and duties stemming from its work.

Esteemed delegates, the report of the party's Central Committee contains an assessment of its 26 years of activities and specifies its future objectives and duties. Allow me to present them:

1. How and under what circumstances was the PDPA formed? [passage omitted]

Thus, such a politically confused situation was created in the country which prepared the ground for the toppling of the regime and eventually the regime was toppled and political power was transferred. At the end of 1978, the uprising of the military officers with the actual support of an overwhelming majority of the people of Afghanistan, succeeded, as a result of which political power was transferred to the PDPA. The Sowr [April] transformation, as the beginning of fundamental socioeconomic changes, was supported and welcomed by the overwhelming majority of the people and made them optimistic for a better future. However, after the transformation of 7 Sowr, various factors came into being which gradually, and after the passing of time, resulted in the intensification of the situation and armed resistance inside the country. Following are the major causes:

Soon after the PDPA came into power, the armed resistance that had been set up long ago in Pakistan for destabilizing the Afghanistan situation and organizing subversive actions against the existing government was intensified with the assistance and support of governments and foreign circles. The parties, organizations, and opposition groups, one after another, were openly formed in Pakistan and Iran, and they were trained and armed. It was not long before armed subversive operations by these groups were launched inside the country, operations which, after the passing of time, gained broader dimensions. Various foreign interventions began against the newly formed government of Afghanistan, including armed interference by some governments mostly via Pakistan, and they further intensified with each passing day. Moreover, as the cold war was prevailing in international relations, a number of governments and foreign circles, due to various reasons and incentives, started to interfere directly or indirectly in the affairs of Afghanistan. They gave political, material, military, and moral support and at the same time, they launched a broad propaganda campaign and psychological warfare against the transformations taking place in Afghanistan and as a whole against the PDPA and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan. Such foreign interference, which then gained broad dimensions, intensified the tension and further complicated the situation inside and around Afghanistan.

On the other hand, the PDPA, in its actions and policies, committed a series of serious practical blunders. At this stage, the most important mistakes of the party were: Not only did the party behave irresponsibly toward its collective actual allies, but it further distanced itself from them. At the same time, party factionalism was renewed, as a result of which a number of the members of the leadership and party activists were either imprisoned or killed or banished. As a result, the situation developed in such a way that the party was not only isolated from its allies, but action took place inside the party whereby the power was centered in the hands of a single faction and consequently fell at the hand of individual people. On the other hand, due to certain reasons, including the general backwardness of society, a lower level of political maturity, and a faulty perception of the society and international relations, the party could not manage to consider carefully the objective and historic facts of the country. The failure to devise a balanced foreign policy, the lack of a correct and rational program for the political role of the party and its relations with the demands of the society, as well as the hasty implementation of a series of reforms and artificial policies, removed from normal and necessary socioeconomic developments, in addition to relying on a one-party system, caused the situation to develop in an undesirable direction.

Recalling these mistakes shows how much the adaptation of the practical policy of the party was at variance with the aims of the party to which thousands of party members had linked their life and struggle. Individualism and the imposition of the will of the party on others became common place; the plan of the formation of a united national front with the participation of all toiling, patriotic, and progress-seeking strata was practically forgotten; categorical deviation took place from the fundamental principles of the state duties and phased tasks were replaced with so-called revolutionary tendencies. The policy of oppression, pressure, torture, and the harassment of intellectuals, spiritual leaders, artisans, traders, national investors, and other interested forces in national-democratic changes, which were the natural allies of the party in this phase, in a manner that the social base of the party was confined to the government and as a result, the party was isolated from the people.

The drafting and implementation of a series of hasty and ill-conceived measures on the subject of land and water, the amalgamation of matters of mortages, the debt of peasants, literacy, and other issues all dealt a severe blow at the foundation of the support of the people for the new rule. Trampling underfoot the rights and fundamental freedoms of the people and the blatant violation of legality—which resulted in the deaths of thousands of our compatriots, including the death and imprisonment of the party members, the monopoly of power, and the distancing of other parties, political and social organizations and personalities from the state apparatus, the replacement of experienced and professional cadres by individuals lacking professional skills under the pretext of political loyalty, and a series of other factors further aggravated the situation in the country and even launched armed confrontation. The question of confrontation was not approached correctly, a specific and healthy approach was not made with various categories of forces, and, in a word, the war, which had barely begun to cool down continued in its most dreadful form.

These mistakes prepared the ground for a number of foreign states and circles, who did not entertain good intentions vis-a-vis Afghanistan long before the change of Sowr, utilizing a variety of pretexts, to intensify different interferences including armed interference, the bases for which had been created during the situation in the region. Resistance bases of the opposition forces were created for this purpose in the countries of Pakistan and Iran, and the centers of military training of the opponents in those countries were expanded. Simultaneously, a large number of our compatriots, due to a variety of reasons, took refuge in foreign countries, particularly in the neighboring countries, and were placed in camps which became the center of conscription for various opposition groups stationed in those countries. In this way, a tense situation took shape in the country that took the character of an all-out war, with armed confrontation between the new soverignty on the one hand and the opposition forces on the other. The aims and interests of certain foreign powers and circles fanned this armed confrontation between the Afghans which resulted into the further aggravation of situations in the country and in the region. These factors, in addition to a series of geopolitical reasons and intentions, brought about conditions that resulted in the arrival in Afghanistan of the military forces of the Soviet Union.

Reviewing the matter as to how the decision was made concerning the arrival of Soviet forces in Afghanistan, about which history will judge, the realities and developments of the last 12 years categorically show that this matter was not in accord with the national interests of Afghanistan. Despite the fact that at the beginning the aim of the arrival of the Soviet Union military units was declared to be the repulsion and rebuff of foreign aggression, the Soviet forces gradually entered the arena of war. At this time, with tension in international relations, a severe cold war, and confrontation between the great powers, the arrival of Soviet forces provided a tool for the neighboring countries and a number of other states and powers—among them the United States of America and some of its allies—to intensify interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and consequently this war. This, on the one hand, weakened and destabilized the party and state and made the situation more unstable, and on the other hand presented the Soviet Union with internal and external difficulties. This hostile confrontation transformed Afghanistan into a place of retaliation for Vietnam in some circles. As a result, a large number of states were dragged into the military and political dispute in Afghanistan. On the other hand, armed resistance by opponents of the state and party, by receiving advanced military weapons and equipment, gained expanded dimensions and obtained new national and religious causes. As a result, the war in Afghanistan became bloody and frightening. The Armed Forces of Afghanistan, the Soviet Union, and the opposition became directly involved and a large number of states and other foreign circles became involved in a direct and indirect manner. In this way the questions of Afghanistan went beyond the internal level and obtained regional and international dimensions. It was transformed into a matter with an international character.

It was not accidental that during the years Soviet military forces were in Afghanistan, Afghanistan was criticized in almost all international circles and gatherings by representatives of a large number of countries. The adoption of resolutions against the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan by an absolute majority of UN member countries, which was on the General Assembly's agenda, is indicative of the bitter and harsh reality with which Afghanistan was faced, that is, the hostility of the international community and world public opinion. This caused the isolation of Afghanistan in the international arena, in particular among the Islamic countries and member countries of the Nonaligned Movement. Afgahanistan was deprived of assistance from Western countries and their allies, and its seat in the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) was suspended and subsequently given to the opposition. Also, the aforementioned factors provided a wide ground for slogans and numerous propaganda, such as the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviets, the advance of the Soviet Union to warm water, the increase of Communist danger in the region, that the PDPA and Kabul Communist regime is Soviet-installed, and other similar slogans. As a result, the social bases of the party and state weakened and the national and patriotic character of the party came under a question mark.

The unnecessary existence of a large number of advisers in the state and party apparatus caused the arrival of a spirit of stagnation, laziness, irresponsibility, and corruption inside the party. The presence of Soviet military units in the country constitutes one of the painful pages of the history of our party and homeland that only the party, by pursuing the policy of national reconciliation was able to put an end to it.

Esteemed delegates, despite all the difficulties and shortcomings to which I have referred, specific positive measures have also been taken during these years; for example, the creation of such social organizations as the National Front, the council of ulema and clergymen, the unions of workers, artists, poets, writers, guilds, tradesmen unions, and so on. Every one of these represents the interests of its relevant class and guards the interests of their unions, as well as the formation of youth and women's democratic organizations to which their active participation in social affairs was attracted. The above organizations played an important role in the enlightenment of youth and women and the mobilization to struggle for the realization of the people's aspirations.

Despite the fact that a major portion of government and party energy was devoted to the defense of sovereignty, a series of important measures were taken in the area of transport, communications, education and training, construction of residential houses, expansion of cities, creation of universities, broadening of social and medical services, and construction of nurseries and medical clinics.

The literacy network has been expanded in the country and despite the continuation of the war, a noticeable portion of the people have become literate. Mass media, including local radio and television stations, was activated in most of the provinces. However, all these measures could in no way remedy the increasing losses which were imposed on the fragile economy of our country. The calamitous losses of life, which were destroying the formidable national wealth that is the life of our compatriots, made families mourn and increased the number of maimings with the passing of every month and year. Hundreds of thousands were martyred and maimed. The destroyed and abandoned villages, the destruction of thousands of burned-out schools and hospitals, idle factories, destroyed houses and farms, homeless people inside and outside the country; these are the results of the war's years which were and are heavy on the hearts of the people of Afghanistan. The direct and indirect losses of the war reach billions of dollars. Despite the presentation of incorrect figures, which became part of the habits of the central and local party and government authorities, state sovereignty was not practically expanding. The second stage of land reform, in most places, was nothing more than the handing over of papers, and as a result agriculture was going down fast. Contrary to the traditional show of figures and statistics, the national income, the real income of families, the living standard and value of bank notes, were going down. Foreign assistance for the construction of Afghanistan was restricted only to the Soviet Union, some UN organizations, and a number of other countries, while in most instances it was not attracted in its proper form.

A large psychological war against our people was being organized in which the mass media of a number of foreign countries also took part. The volume of foreign assistance to the opposition aimed at subversion of our country was intensively increased annually. The people no longer believed our routine claims that today or tomorrow the enemy would be resolutely crushed and the revolution would achieve its final victory. In society and also before party members, the question arose of where, eventually, the continuation of this war wwould lead. It was necessary for the party to assess the situation in a new way and put an end to the stagnant and stalemated situation. The assessment of the developing situation brought the party and state to the result that they no longer permitted the continuation of such a situation. It was, therefore, in consideration of national interests and the changing international situation, and in consideration of the fact that the question of Afghanistan could not be solved through military means, that the party chose a qualitatively new policy adopting the policy of national reconciliation and for which it has hereby undertaken new measures to its complete realization. [applause]

The 16th plenum of the PDPA Central Committee put forward the very first warning concerning the consequences of the continuation of the present situation and pointed out that, with the continuation of the old policies, approaches, and thinking of the past, it can no longer be expected that war in the country will end or even that its scale will be limited. This plenum took the first steps toward the most realistic assessment of the socioeconomic conditions of our society and considered the social composition of the country, not in the form which emanated from the common articles of theory and subjectivity, but in a manner that existed in real life. The 16th plenum paid attention to the question of various political organizations and tendencies in the country that had come into being in the most recent years. However, their existence was simply rejected in the official party drafts, and by putting forward the idea of proposing the expansion of the social bases of the revolution they practically voted for the necessity of eliminating the power monopoly. These were the first measures of our party toward assessing the true reasons of the continuation of war. However, it became clear very soon that if fundamental changes were not induced the first steps could not be followed by later necessary steps. In reality, implementation of the 16th PDPA Central Committee plenum resolutions was carried out with a conservative method, doubt, and lack of courage. The policy of expanding the states social bases was solely understood as maintaining the physical participation of other forces in the conditions of preserving the monopoly of power in the hands of the PDPA. The practical participation of the opponents and other political forces in the state was not approached politically, but administratively.

The party therefore, in the course of its subsequent plenums, assessed the question of the form of a deep and expanded policy of reconciliation, including the introduction of necessary changes to the party leadership in order to speed up the process of arriving at national peace, understanding, and necessary decisions in this regard. The 19th plenum of the party Central Committee once again discussed the question of distance between words and action, criticized bluntness in implementing decisions as well as the insufficiency of the adopted decisions, and in this way gave a fresh impetus to the movement of the party toward the national policy. Life and the speedy developments in the internal and external situation practically made the party choose between a resolute and courageous policy of national understanding and its sincere and active implementation on the one hand, and hesitation and conservatism—as well as slackness in action through safeguarding old policies and approaches, a lack of ability and uselessness which was proven in the course of the bloody experience, that is, monopolization and the continuation of the catastrophe of war for an unknown time and destiny—on the other hand. The December 1986 plenum made this historic choice, and by putting forward a coordinated program concerning the policy of national reconciliation and the commencement of true movement toward its implementation, chose the path of life, peace, national understanding, and democracy. I should confess to you delegates that have the credentials of representing the party ranks nationwide that guiding the party on the path of new thinking and approach was not free from great difficulties for the leadership. When we defined the path of national reconciliation—an unknown, but necessary path and expected to compliment the part of this policy with learning from the realities of life of our society as it stands and not as it is imagined, and to enrich it—fear and concern, which as usual comes about before the beginning of every great task, emerged. At the time of putting forward the national policy, a policy which was being created and could only be the fruit of experience, talent, and creativity of the party masses and the will of all patriots of Afghanistan, a variety of political stances and a lack of understanding appeared, as well as struggle between the new policy and that of the past. For a number of members of the party who, through the years, considered military victory against the opponents the only path of victory for their thinking, it was difficult to understand the meaning of peaceful negotiations and political dialogue. For some party members, who had undisputed power in their possession and arrogantly kept their positions, it was difficult to realize that sovereignty belongs to the people, and that outside the party there are also people who live and work. They should also, with equal rights, share all state affairs with the partisans, and power should be distributed with them on the basis of standards of democracy. For those who for long years had rejected the existence of other political parties and organizations and could only think within the framework of a one-party system, it was difficult to share work with these organizations and parties or recognize their existence.

In order to overcome the past habits and thinking, patient and consistent work and time was needed. The December 1986 plenum succeeded in this unbreakable belief that the acute political matters of the country cannot be solved by the force of arms. Adopting political methods in this struggle enjoyed resolute and decisive importance. The plenum chose the policy of national reconciliation because it constituted the only possible way of putting an end to the current war in the country, and our party saw in this policy the best example of showing its patriotic, democratic, and ethical principles. Therefore, the new policy of the party attracted the support and fervent welcome of the people.

The second nationwide PDPA conference declared the policy of national reconciliation to be the strategic policy of the party and enriched its implementation by making practical decisions toward creating a multiparty system and a coalition administration, the advancement of constructive dialogue with the opponents and in particular with commanders inside the country. In this conference the party, with a new charter, program, and Constitution, which enhanced its effectiveness of activity and participation in the political life of the country, was identified. The conference declared the foundation of the policy of national reconciliation, the abandonment of power monopoly, and provided the ground for participation of society's political forces in the sociopolitical life of the country, and transformed the party into the party of national reconciliation.

The new charter moved the party closer to the realities of Afghan society and created bridges to consolidate its links with the people. In this manner, the party was able to come out as an ally of the policy of ensuring peace in order to improve the political atmosphere in the country and to compile and present the idea of a political solution to the situation in and around Afghanistan. In the framework of the policy of national reconcilation, the party devoted its attention to the withdrawal of the Soviet units from Afghanistan and the independent defense of the country which would prepare the ground for dialogue among Afghans and the settlement of the external aspects of the Afghanistan issue. [applause]

With the understanding of the Soviet Union leadership, we submitted the principle of the return of Soviet units. This idea, which was in conformity with the new policy of the Soviet Government under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, promoted a secure basis for eliminating some factors which were the causes of the continuation of foreign interference and war in Afghanistan. With a principled decision resulting from the policy of national reconciliation, the Geneva Accords were signed between Afghanistan and Pakistan on 15 April 1988, and the two great powers—the Soviet Union and the United States—signed the accords as guarantors.

The complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan on 15 February 1989 was a historic decision and a courageous act on the part of the party and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan [applause], which, on the one hand, confirmed the sincerity of the state of Afghanistan in implementing the pledges embodied in the Geneva Accords, and, on the other hand, showed that the party and the state, in accepting all the consequences, were resolutely determined to defend their country independently and to perform their patriotic duties in conditions of the absence of foreign forces. [applause] However, Pakistan and the United States of America, as signatories and guarantors of the Geneva Accords, ruthlessly and continuously violated the letter and spirit of the accords in connection with the cessation of interventions against the Republic of Afghanistan. As a result, foreign interference not only did not stop but acquired further intensity and dimensions. Some regions of the border areas which were evacuated by the armed forces in order to encourage the return of the refuges were quickly, one after another, occupied by groups of the armed opposition with the direction cooperation and participation of the military circles of Pakistan. The transportation of advanced weapons to the positions and depots of the armed opposition groups inside Afghanistan was intensified with speed on an unprecedented scale. Similarly, the interim government of the seven parties was created in Pakistan, in haste, and numerous measures and efforts were made by the leaders of these groups and by their foreign backers for international recognition, Adminstrative organization, and transfer of the interim government inside the territory of Afghanistan. Simultaneously, a large-scale psychological and propaganda war was organized inside and outside the country aimed at the immediate collapse of the Republic of Afghanistan. Western countries and a number of other countries shut their embassies in Kabul under the propaganda pretexts of a lack of security and upcoming bloodbath in Kabul. Similarly, intimidating rumors such as the readiness of the PDPA to flee abroad and massacres, etc, were widely spread. In this propaganda campaign, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan was given days, weeks, and the very pessimistic scenarios suggested several months before its collapse after the completion of the Soviet withdrawal. It could be said that public opinion in general thought that the state would collapse, inevitably and quickly.

It was in these conditions that the question of life and death confronted the party and state of the Republic of Afghanistan. Either we should have surrendered to the fate determined for us and the future of Afghanistan by others or we should have defended the homeland ourselves with courage and bravery. [applause] The party and the state pursued the second road—the road of brave defense. All of us remember during those difficult days, how the party organized the famous march of 6 February 1989 and mobilized all its forces toward independent defense.

Tens of thousands of provo party members joined the armed forces, civil battalions, self-defense groups, and independent party battalions and detachments; and chanting homeland or death, they hurried up to the battle front. [applause]

After the complete withdrawal of the Soviet forces and the establishment of the provisional government in Pakistan, plans and actions were embarked upon to topple the government of the Republic of Afghanistan by military force and to transfer the provisional government to within the territory of Afghanistan by force. For this purpose the broad attack on Jalalabad began on 7 March 1989 by the joint extremist forces, Pakistan, and Wahhabi mercenaries. At the same time broad military operations were launched to cut the highways and impose an economic blockade on the cities. Meanwhile broad attacks on some provinces and regions of the country, such as Khowst, Qandahar, Zabol, Paktia, Laghman, Uruzgan etc, was launched. Thus the party and government of the Republic of Afghanistan found themselves facing another difficult test. But life proved that we went through this historic test successfully. [applause]

The overwhelming majority of party members, allies, and other compatriots put themselves in the trenches to defend the homeland with courage, self-sacrifice, and devotion, and proved their righteousness and strength in the hot battlefield. [applause]

It was not surprising that the heroisms and epic-making bravery of the defenders of Jalalabad, Khowst, Qandahar, Zabo, Laghman, of the highways and other regions of the country, caused surprise to and even brought commendations from our friends and foes inside and outside the country.

Our independent defense against the joint enemy forces proved wrong all opposition predictions about the immediate collapse of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, and it established that our party is not a shallow structure. In the most difficult situation it displayed a capability for heroic self-defense. Although they were dismayed and discouraged, the warmongering extremists and those who were in favor of a military solution by toppling the government of the Republic of Afghanistan continued their military attacks and pressure by various forms and by the use of more modern weapons, and at the same time they sought other ways of toppling the government, including the organization of a coup.

It was not accidental that at this time the western mass media spread the statements made by Golboddin and by officials from Pakistani military intelligence regarding their desire to topple the government by military means. Thus an effort was made in Qaws in 1368 [beginning 22 November 1989] to stage a coup d'etat by some officers attached to the military intelligence service of Pakistan and the Golboddin extremist party which was discovered and foiled in time. On 7 and 8 December 1989 an all-out attempt at a coup d'etat, led by Golboddin-Shahnawas, and with open support from the military intelligence service of Pakistan, was launched. As a result of united actions by the overwhelming majority of the members of the PDPA, by units and subunits of the armed forces, and of the support of the people, it was foiled within 24 hours [applause] and Shahnawas with his treacherous henchmen fled to Pakistan. All the features of the coup d'etat and the identity of the organizers and of their foreign supporters, clearly reveal that the failed coup of 7 March was a continuation of a broad chain of actions and armed conspiracies for a military solution of the Afghanistan issue, seeking to prevent the realization of the policy of national reconciliation, to create obstacles in the path of a political solution of the issue, and to install an extremist government in Afghanistan—a puppet of Pakistan. Clearly, the military intelligence of Pakistan, the extremist opponents of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the enemies of national reconciliation inside the PDPA and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan all had a common interest in seeking to secure this evil objective.

It was because of this that these forces, while different and heterogenous in appearance, organized hand-in-hand the March 1990 coup d'etat which unfortunately resulted in the shedding of the sacred blood of a number of our compatriots and huge financial and material losses. In this connection, I would like to point out that the united action and stand of the absolute majority of party members and the heroic and coordinated operations of the majority of the units and companies of armed forces played a fundamental role in foiling the coup d'etat and preventing the conspiracies of the enemies of national reconciliation [applause] which is a cause for celebration and appreciation and merits pride and exultation.

It should be clearly stated that our heroic armed forces which have defended the country's independence during the past 12 years, will now, after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, continue to fight heroically, with courage and bravery against any kind of threat in defense and of the territorial integrity and independence of the country and will not spare any sacrafice. [applause]

The personnel of our armed forces, on the eve of the second congress of the party, have carried out successful operations in Paghman, which was allegedlly regarded as the invincible fortress of the warmongering extremists, and have given an important gift to this congress. Let us express our profound appreciation to these courageous heroes on the path of defense of the peace and security of the people. [applause]

Here it is necessary to recall that during the period of independent defense, the great neighboring country and the traditional friend of our people, the Soviet Union, contrary to the belief of those who viewed the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan as leaving the Afghans stranded in very difficult conditions—particularly when the attacks by the opposition and their efforts to impose an economic blockade of cities continued—did not spare any political, economic, military, and moral assistance to the people of Afghanistan. Simultanously, the Soviet Union, as a guarantor of the Geneva Accords, has made and is making vital diplomatic and political efforts to assist the people of Afghanistan to end the war and bloodshed. From the tribune of the present congress, I would like to express eternal gratitude to the people and leadership of the Soviet Union, who in understanding with us have prepared the ground for the return of that country's troops from

Afghanistan and extended great assistance during the past one-and-half years to our people based on traditional and historic friendly relations. Our gratitude also goes to the Congress of People's Deputies and to the Supreme Soviet of that country, which have approved this assistance. [applause]

Esteemed delegates, it can be said without doubt that alongside the policy of national reconciliation, the independent defense by the party and state over more than 16 months since the total withdrawal of Soviet troops, repelling military attacks by the extremists on the cities and highways of the country, breaking the economic blockade, and preventing various kinds of economic sabotage have been the gains which make up the glowing pages of our party's history. These gains and successes, which have been achieved in truly complex and difficult political-military conditions, have not only nullified the predictions and prejudgments regarding the fall of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan after the total withdrawal of Soviet forces but have brought about changes and transformation in the conclusions, stances, and thinking of the friends and opponents of the party and the state. Fundamental conclusions which can be drawn from these events are as follows:

The unity of the party is the guarantor of its success.

The PDPA and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan is a force which cannot be overthrown by military pressure. [applause]

The option of a military solution of the Afghanistan issue has no success and future. The only solution of the issue is the political solution through negotiations and understanding. No political solution is possible without the participation of our party, its political allies, and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Similarly, the stance of the United States of America, of some other Western countries, and some opposition groups in connection with the solution of the Afghanistan issue has been subject to change.

It must be pointed out that the party and government of the Republic of Afghanistan, seeking to mobilize all forces for independent defense, did not for one moment forget the fundamental outline of its policy, that is the policy of national reconciliation. During the period of independent defense, new peace proposals were put forward and the government managed to maintain political initiative and to further deepen the policy of national reconciliation. This policy has been further developed with the passing of each day by all thinking party members and people, and transformed into a satisfactory foundation for the future progress of society on the basis of standards of democracy.

In our view, the fundamental directions of the policy of national reconciliation at the present time are:

Solving present and future issues of Afghanistan by political means and giving priority to national interests and nationwide peace over class, local, tribal, and clan interests.

Struggling for the restoration of democracy in society in such a way that no force or social group can be exempted from equal participation.

Accepting the right of lawful political activity for each party and political organization on the basis of a multiparty system.

Furthering broad political dialogue with all belligerent forces in the war including the forces based in Peshawar and Tehran, the supporters of the former king, and Afghan intellectuals living in the west, representatives of the refugees, especially commanders inside the country, in order to seek ways to end the present bloodshed [word indistinct] and to achieve broad understanding on the basis of national interests.

Endeavoring to remove the monopoly of power by one party, seeking rational and viable coalitions for the creation of effective abilities to restore nationwide peace by free and democratic elections.

Taking the necessary legislative measures for the consolidation of legality in the country and the creation of a sound legal basis for strengthening legality in the country and creating a sound legal basis for improving the multisector economy.

Securing unity of action of all pro-peace forces and broadening the ground for their active participation in the sociopolitical life of the country.

Effecting the honorable return and rehabilitation of the refugees in the country.

Friends, what are our gains from the policy of national reconciliation during the past 3 ½ years? During this period, understanding was advanced among the opposition; a number of groups came over to the side of national reconciliation. At present, a figure of over 100,000 men is being mentioned. This, as well as a reduction in the active combatant forces of the opposition clealy shows thier profound adherance to peace in the country. At present, two-thirds of the commanders of the armed opposition groups are either at the stage of talks with the government or have given up the war of fratricide, having perceived its futility. Despite the fact that our country is faced with intensified provocations, open violations, and foreign intervention, the situation has noticeably improved, with the exception of a numnber of border provinces and some main highways.

By deepening the policy of national reconciliation, the PDPA now enjoys further prestige in the national and international arenas. As one of the initiatives, the new constitution was introduced to broaden democracy in the country, and the recent Grand Assembly introduced fundamental amendments in the above constitution for the creation of a more favorable political atmosphere in the country. The new government, with more nonparty members, was created, and the activities of the Afghan parliament was resumed after 15 years. Its role in the life of the country was enhanced.

Attention was paid to the rehabilitation of the refugees,and legislative provisions for the return of property and relevant rights, were issued.

The government put forward various proposals, acceptable to all belligerent sides, for the political solution of Afghan issues. The proposals for the political solution of the domestic and external aspects of the Afghan issue, presented at the Ninth Nonaligned Summit held in Belgrade, had a positive effect on world public opinion concerning the political solution of the Afghan issue. With the passing of time, these proposals were further enriched and a most comprehensive text was approved at the Grand Assembly this year. This draft provides for a cooling-off period to create preliminary conditions for understanding and dialogue, which includes a cease-fire in some regions—partial, local, or general—preliminary contacts, and the right to create new coalition forces. The mechanism of the proposal envisages a transitional period which will continue from the process of talks to the conclusion of elections for a broad-based government. During this period all measures will be taken, such as the creation of coordination and preparatory committees for the elections, the setting up of commissions to draft the constitution and election law, the convocation of the Grand Assembly, and the election of the president by this assembly.

The mechanism also considers the interests of all parties and political organizations inside the country as well as the interests of opposition organizations and personalities who are in favor of a political solution of the Afghan issue. It must be said specifically that it was a result of our continued realism and flexibility that the military solution is now being rejected and the inevitability of a political solution has become the general belief in Afghanistan and in the world. The second party congress is being convened at a time when a new horizon has opened up for a political settlement of the problem of Afghanistan. In the light of national reconciliation policy, the Republic of Afghanistan has developed a series of contacts with leadership circles of the opposition's moderate wing in which positive results have been obtained. In the course of the contacts many possibilities appeared to break the stalemate in a political solution. It has led to changes in the U.S. assessment of Afghanistan's realities, agreements to achieve a political settlement, the beginning of a dialogue and negotiations between Afghans, and the holding of elections. The dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States, the guarantors of the Geneva agreements, is developing, especially after the bilateral summit in Washington, toward the removal of differences and toward helping the Afghans attain peace. The PDPA, which has proposed and seeks a political solution to the problems of the country, supports efforts aimed at alleviating the obstacles in the path of reaching peace in our war-weary country and resolutely backs the peace-seeking stances of the Republic of Afghanistan.

After the defeat of the military efforts of the warmonger extremists, the people of the world know well that the policy of the Republic of Afghanistan—which is based on national reconciliation, on the preference for political solutions to military ones, on the start of negotiations between the confronting sides, on the cessation of combat activities and the creation of circumstances for full elections—is the only way to stop the war and bloodshed in the country.

In the developing political situation, especially the recent positive developments that have appeared in the direction of a political solution, our party will face another great test in the not too distant future, and that is participation in elections. We will prepare comprehensively for such an important issue, which is not only of importance for our party but for the future of the country and the fate of the all pro-peace and progressive forces.

The conditions for success are: carrying out effective work and promoting credibility with the people; awareness of the political, social, cultural, economic, national, and regional needs and demands of all nationalities and various tribes, and being prepared to resolve their problems; entering the hearts and minds of the people; organizing and mobilizing all social strata toward peaceful and democratic ideals and causes which our party is defending. Party organizations and cadres at the center and in the provinces can emerge from this great test victorious, provided they work with awareness and provided all party committees pay attention to the preparations for the elections.

In this connection there is another fundamental issue. Over the years of war, unfortunately, a large number of the people in various parts of the country have been armed with lethal weapons. In the course of the transfer from war to peace and to the preparation for peace it is necessary to look for coalition partners or real political allies, actual and potential, who are capable of securing peace and the cessation of war in this or that area. But it is first necessary to assess and detect the national and regional demands of the forces in view. These are the great tasks that face our party in connection with our work with the masses of the people and with today's opposition, which are to be tomorrow's allies, and for the implementation of national reconciliation.

By adopting the national reconciliation policy the party was able to break out of the stalemate that appeared in the society and rid itself and the political system as a whole of its isolation on the national and international level. And by resolutely dislodging and defending against the foreign enemy's conspiracies against our country's independence, its territorial integrity, and its national sovereignty, we opened up real prospects for attaining national understanding.

But all of these things are the starting point. In other words, we have been able to defend our positions well, to prepare ourselves bravely for the expansion of peace and democracy. But in order to attain total peace and stability in the country, to gain full control of the situation, and to start a national movement for the reconstruction and the restoration of the disrupted life of the millions of our compatriots to its normal course we need further great and brave efforts.

We should confess that on the path of the party's activities for the implementation of national reconciliation it has also not been devoid of certain shortcomings, among which we can mention: the inability to arrive at a agreement in the generation of a variety of analyses and interpretations, which, on occasion, were contradictory to reality; a lack of boldness in dialogue [preceding word in English] and compromise with the opposition forces; and a lack of dynamism in the practical implementation of the decisions of the party.

Lastly, the adherence by some cadres to old thoughts has prevented them from moving along with new changes in the process of reconciliation and they have adopted hostile positions toward it. The failed coup d'etat was its cruelest manifestation. The party should act resolutely against such shortcomings in the future.

It can be said that our country finds itself at the crossroads to new conditions, from war to peace, from chaos to stability, and from broad hostility to national understanding. The party, which is no doubt making efforts to safeguard its important role in the course of all the political developments, cannot aspire to its lofty humanitarian goals without brave, clear, and purposeful restructuring.

The restructuring of the party—the prerequisite for ensuring peace and for reconstructing the country. It should be said proudly that after 26 years of facing tests and real life, the PDPA today is the broadest, most organized, and most powerful political organization in our society. Today, our party has 173,614 members from among the vigilant sons of the country, including intellectuals, workers, farmers, artisans, state employees, national businessmen, entrepreneurs, and clergy. This means that the party has a safe base in our society. Among the members of the party are representatives of various ethnic groups, Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks, Turkmens, Baluchis, Pashayi, Noristanis, and others. This profoundly demonstrates the national and nationwide character of the party and its consistency in the policy of consolidating solidarity among the fraternal people of the country. The party will enrich this valuable treasure in the future as well. Party members both in the ranks of the heroic armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and in the production and cultural life of the country serve as outstanding examples of self-sacrifice for the homeland and for the interest of the people. The membership of 15,924 valiant women of the country in our party shows their belief in the policy of our party in defense of their rights. The enhancement of party ranks and files, the manifestation of whose vital capability is like that of a living organism, continues. Since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, 114,853 peace-loving, democratic, and progressive people have newly linked their fate with the fate of our party. This process is continuing.

We attach special importance to those members of the party who are implementing the policy of the party through effective and purposeful work in social organizations, in local organs of state power and administration in parliament and in the government. The broad network of the party organization, which comprises 28 provincial organizations and their equivalent, 22 city organizations, 173 ward, district, and subdistrict organizations, 4,925 primary organizations, 14,221 party groups, endow the party with wide support for its policies. Over the past years various sections—the Central Committee Commission of Inquiry and the Control Committee, as well as its workers network—have been in the service of implementing the party aims. KHALQ, HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR, PAYAM, and FARMER newspapers and ZINDAGI-E HEZBI magazine have been the publishing organs and the propagators of the thoughts of the PDPA after KHALQ and PARCHAM newspapers. (two newspapers which were published by the PDPA in the 60s.) Right now the Central Committee is pursuing a constructive dialogue with 20 parties and social and political organizations for the formation of a broad front of the supporters of peace and reconstruction. Between the two congresses, and by a decision and with the help of the party Central Committee, the democratic organizations of women and youth, the trade unions, farmers cooperatives, the union of creative intellectuals, and a host of other social organizations have been founded in the country. They have played a major role in the defense of the country and in broadening the social basis of the sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan. On the bases of the national reconciliation policy, the party, over recent years, has arranged its relations with the aforementioned organisations on new principles—respect for their complete political and organizational independence, mutual cooperation, and efforts for the achievement of common goals. In between the two congresses, the central committee undertook to promote the party's relations with progressive, democratic and peace-loving parties and organizations in the region and in the world. Today, the PDPA has bilateral and multilateral relations at various levels with 174 national, regional, and international organizations. Over recent years the Central Committee has improved its work method and has relied upon more direct links with the people, on close links with local party organizations, on continual meetings with party members, and on direct assistance in the solution of local organizations' problems. On the basis of a Central Committee decision, a number of production organizations have been founded to increase the income sources of the party.

A large reserve of cadres is available to the party. Party cadres, which have acquired the necessary experience and maturity by traveling the beaten tracks of battle and whose rank and file are persistently gaining strength with the entry of youthful members, will be the confident guarantor of the effective activities of the party in the future as well. The Central Committee, an organ responsible to the congress, has in the past 26 years continuously maintained political and organizational leadership of the party. During that period the Central Committee has convened plenums and all-party conferences in various circumstances as required. We can, in particular, name the all-party conference of 1860 [1981, beginning 21 March] and in the month of Mizan 1365 [October 1986].

During that period the Central Committee conducted active contacts and dialogue with groups and political organizations inside the country. As a consequence, during the period of the two congresses, organizations such as the Work Bank, the Revolutionary Society of Toilers of Afghanistan, the Vanguard Organization of the Young Workers of Afghanistan, the Organization of the Fedayeen of the Toilers of Afghanistan, the Revolutionary Brigades of the People of Afghanistan, and the Vanguard Organization of the toilers of Afghanistan have joined the party with full acceptance of its political and organizational principles.

Similarly, after the approval of the Law on Political Parties in the Republic of Afghanistan, 10 political parties and organizations have formally started activities in the country where the party has established mutually usefully cooperation with them at various levels.

During the period between the congresses, in conformity with the qualitiative and quantitative development of the party, the party Central Committee and, naturally, its Politburo, have undergone great changes. The Commission for Inquiry now has 34 members, including its chairman and deputy chairman. Such is today's organizational image of the PDPA, which is the product of a quarter of a century collective work and activities of its leadership, cadres, and rank and file. At the same time, the Central Committee acknowledges that its work and activities in some cases did not confirm with the general requirements of the party and were not accompanied by the due results.

The Central Committee did not succeed in implementing many democratic norms of the constitution. Its cadres policy had shortcomings. The nomenclature system, the placement of cadres gave rise to many negative results. Corruption and abuse of power by some members of the party to secure personal gain damaged the credibility of the party. Some of those individuals have been prosecuted. The party should resolutely continue its struggle against corruption and abuses of power. Certain elements of party tasks have been interchanged with the state and led to the development of bureaucracies and other negative phenomena within the party. Regretfully, in many cases some members of the Central Committee not only were not merited representatives of party unity but also, with their unprincipled attitude, became the source of differences and factionalism in the ranks of the party.

We are of the opinion that the restructuring of the party and the enhancement of democracy in party life will remove the possibility of a repetition of mistakes in the work of the Central Committee and will ensure its further effectiveness in the future.

Dear comrades, on the eve of marking the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the party, the Central Committee has reached this conclusion after a comprehensive analysis of the past and the important tasks that stand before the party. The party has performed a great historic service by proposing and putting forward the national reconciliation policy. In the future this policy will also be carried on with further determination. At the same time, the Central Committee has concluded that the party needs a restructuring of its ideological and organizational basis to further conform with the circumstances created by the development of the national reconciliation policy. Therefore, it is necessary to answer the question: What is restructuring and what are its goals?

Restructuring is a system of decisions and brave activity which helps the party so that the existing gap between its policy and the objective realities of our society is removed, and the goals facing the party become more realistic and practical and conform with the interests and demands of the absolute majority of Afghans. Now we can say that there are individuals who contributed meritorious service in the past but cannot respond to the circumstances of present and future demands. In many respects they require a complete and principled review.

However, when the Central Committee, on the threshold of its 26th year of activity, decided that the abovementioned issues be put before the party members and that broad consultations be held on the need to approve a new draft program and charter as well as renaming the party, it became known that some elements among the leadership and cadres of the party did not correctly understand the need for its renewal and were unable to free themselves from dogmas and [word indistinct] imaginations. During the general sessions in the month of Dalw (Feb-Apr) of primary party organizations, which in fact was the beginning of the consultation by the Central Committee on the renewal of the party, these people organized campaigns in opposition to this policy. The dogmatists hid themselves in a demagogical manner behind democratic slogans, such as the convocation of the congress and the holding of elections, but in practice their obvious opposition to all kinds of positive changes in the practical program and the documents of the party was manifested constantly and demanded the return of the party to the so-called stance of class distinctions. In practice this is nothing but distancing oneself from the realities in the country, from the benefits of national reconciliation, and it would merely serve to prolong war and bloodshed in the country.

I wish to state, with pleasure, that the deliberations of the sessions of the party on the eve of the second party congress and the referendum regarding the new draft and charter of the party are based on the fact that—despite the doubts which were aired in the beginning by some of our friends regarding the adoption of the new policy—the idea of restructuring enjoys massive backing among our party members and their supporters. They unanimously support the spread of the program of national reconciliation and the ensuring of its irrevocability. [applause] By an absolute majority in the various sessions and conferences, the party comrades expressed their support for all the principles incorporated in the draft and charter of the party, and presented their opinions and recommendations, as well as numerous constructive proposals for the further enrichment of the party.

The new draft and charter of the party, which have been prepared in keeping in mind the opinions and proposals of the party members and the people, have been placed at the disposal of the congress representatives. It is necessary for us briefly to discuss the general specifications of the aforementioned documents:

Regarding the new draft of the party's manifesto:

The manifesto is a document of principles, specifying the objectives and obligations proposed for the party and the ways and means for their attainment.

Since its inception, our party has been active in adherence to its first manifesto, disseminated in the Khalq magazine, and in accordance with a series of documents on the subsequent program of the party, including the program for the implementation of the draft of the second nationwide conference.

The new draft is based on the entirely new set of circumstances prevailing in the country and the obligations stemming from them, which meet the exigencies of the times. However, it is clear that this draft, which contains similar objectives to those of the party in the past, has given top priority to the struggle for the happiness of the people as the pivot of its stance.

The salient highlights of the new draft are as follows:

In the draft, the obligations of the party are specified. These are not the obligations of a ruling party but of a party which has relinquished its monopoly on power and is a participant in the principles of democracy in the delegation of power, enjoys equal and mutually beneficial relations with all parties, and strives for the attainment of its objectives in the present and the future, not by bureaucratic means but by political means.

The draft focuses on the attainment of national objectives in general, at the present juncture, the highlights of which are the transition from a state of war to an era of peace and reconstruction.

The draft of the manifesto in the political section has described its objective as national sovereignty based on the principles of democracy and a parliamentary system, the establishment of harmony and national unity, and access to a system of government based on the coalition of forces and national reconciliation.

In the new draft, the party pledges to adhere to the traditional principles of democracy, and the holding of elections through free, direct, secret, and democratic balloting, which it considers the main means to the attainment of democracy.

In the draft under discussion, the party deems the struggle for the defense of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens, including the freedom of expression and publication, the establishment and activities of parties, and all other legal freedoms, as its fundamental obligation. It has based its activities in this sphere on the principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, the International Declaration of Human Rights, and general human values.

In this draft, the reconstruction of the country by means of renovation and construction, and the bolstering of agricultural installations, irrigation systems, and traditional systems, which were damaged during the war, will receive special attention

In the cultural section, the draft emphasizes overall awareness based on a halt to war, and the establishment of peace which has begun to take shape in recent years.

The party will expand and strengthen its relations with all the parties, political and social organizations, and national movements which support peace, progress, and ecology.

Similarly, the new objectives and obligations of the party in the social, cultural, and national fields and in the field of foreign policy have been clearly delineated, testifying to its realistic approach to the new circumstances and conditions.

In view of the lack of harmony between the new manifesto of the party and its current name, it has been appropriately proposed that the name of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan be changed to the Homeland Party. [applause]

The choice of the appellation Homeland Party is wholly suitable from the point of view of its patriotic and national bias, as well as in view of the objectives of the party's restructuring, which reflects the true national face of the party.

As regards economic aspects, the fundamental nature of the obligations which stem from the situation of transition from a state of war to peace and redevelopment, by means of the utilization of all the country's economic and social resources and the soliciting of all foreign assistance, in order to eliminate the ravages of war and to ensure progress in the country. The draft reflects the new approach by the party with regard to the ownership and the idea of various economic systems based on existing objective realities for socio-economic development and growth, which in the past was mostly disregarded. The most fundamental characteristics of the new draft of the party program were its freedom from dogmas, stereotypes, and alien models, and the realities of our society. In this draft, conformity of party objectives with national interests, instruction of the sacred religion of Islam and the merited traditions of our people have been suitably reflectd. Regarding the party's manifesto: Equipping the party with a new charter which reflects its true content and ensures the flexibility and dynamism of party organizations in the new conditions of political activity is an important and fundamental condition of the party.

As you are aware, the preliminary draft of the new charter was put forward for the opinion of members and friends of the party. In the present draft at the disposal of the esteemed delegates, many views and observations put forward during the campaign for opinions have been taken into account. However, it is worth mentioning that some of those giving opinions were unable to understand the qualitative differences between the present draft and the one which is enforced. It should be realized that the present draft is not only an amended variant of the previous party charters, but despite the existence of similarity in a number of cases, its commands and contents are based on different principles as compared to the past. This fact has been characterized in the preface of the above mentioned draft, in which the identity of the party, its qualities of social and political organization which strives to achieve lasting and nationwide peace, defense of independence, the country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, protection and consolidation of national unity, the reconstruction of Afghanistan, social and economic development, ensures justice and unites progressive, patriotic, national and democratic forces.

Such formulations not only place before the party an extended circle of urgent national objectives, but also opens its doors to the increasing circle of healthy national forces. In accordance with the requirements of the new draft, subjects of the Republic of Afghanistan can join the party if they have legal entitlement, the will to struggle for the realization of the supreme objectives of the party, and will observe the sacred religion of Islam and the admirable traditions of our people. [applause] Of course, this fact does not stop membership in the party of followers of other religions.

Similarly, some other stringent requirements were also deleted from the conditions of membership which were preventing a large number of enthusiasts from joining the party ranks. Such an approach fully corresponds with the realities of our society.

The new draft embodies the main principles of the structure and activity of the party and empowers the Central Committee to regulate some standards and methods of the party activities. In this manner, the draft is both brief and conscise, and also enjoys more flexibility in order to ensure the rules of our party life are in keeping with the needs of future developments in the political situation in the country. Necessary attention has been paid to the expansion of democracy in party life. Of coure, we do not claim that the charter ideally embodies all democratic norms. In this regard too, above all, those factors have been tacled which pertain to the present objective situation in the society and the special responsibility facing the party in the transition from war to peace and reconstruction. It should be said clearly that in the conditions in which our party is facing a great political test and is confronted with completely new tasks, in conditions of pluralism, the issue of consolidating party unity acquires great importance.

On the the hand, it is obvious that the future stance of the party in the conditions of seeking a political solution, of political rivalaries, and of an election campaign depends on the degree of party unity and solidarity and consequently the degree of party effectiveness and strength in society. [applause]

Surely, in these conditions one cannot agree to some ideas such as the freedom of factions in the party, because any action which ultimately leads to divisions and a weakening of the party will go against the general interests of the party and the national interests of our homeland. [applause]

The strength and unity of the party is one of the most important factions in accelerating political solutions and unifying the forces in favor of peace in the Republic of Afghanistan. In the meantime, we oppose any kind of discrimination regarding pluralism of beliefs in the party. One can only reach the truth by exchanging views and comparing ideas. Therefore, the new draft charter leaves the door open for free expression of views by party members not only in connection with the formulation of policies but also regarding the circumstances of their implementation. Of course, it is obvious that the freedom of expression of views should in no way hinder the implementation of the general and current policy of the party.

In fact, democracy is one of the great human values, and efforts will always continue to acheive its highest levels, but a reasonable level can only be achieved by maintaining a balance between the ideal and the reality. Achieving the highest levels of democracy for our party, which has spent a great part of its past life in conditions of bureaucratic centralism, can only be achieved step by step. The new draft of the charter can be regarded as a document enabling the party to leap to the highest levels of democracy. [applause]

Esteemed delegates, the new drafts of the party charter and program constitute the sure foundation of its renewal. You are in possession of these drafts. However, one point should be seriously pointed out, that every effort to pass judgment on the contents of the party's charter and program from the old and stereotyped viewpoints and the attitudes of yesterday will not only complicate an understanding of its nature but may cause bewilderment and misunderstanding. Therefore, it is very important that when assessing the drafts, delegates should submit their questions from the angle of conformity with general national and patriotic interests, the future direction of political developments, and the degree of effeciency of the charter and program of the party in such conditions.

Now I would like to present the view of the Central Committee concerning a number of fundamental issues:

Questions can be raised about the approach of the party to the issue of revolution, about whether the party is abandoning it or sticking to it. Should we silence past revolutionary slogans or bid farewell them?

The word revolution, throughout history, has been used for fundamental socioeconomic transformations in various societies. We are familiar with the history of small and great revolutions. When discussing changing the old regime and installing a new system revolution come in being. Let us view the revolution in its broad sense. With this meaning, the revolution is an endeavor by millions of people to alter an undesirable situation to achieve progress, justice, and equality which is a longstanding historic process and exists objectively, irrespective of our intervention or nonintervention. However, if the purpose of revolution is the power of government which was transferred to us 12 years ago, then it should be stated—and we have clearly announced that things would have undergone profound revolutionary transformations. Unfortunately, due to the reason stated earlier this task was confronted with difficulites and obstacles, and therefore not realized. On the other hand, we should not think that the future of a revolution is linked with the preservation of the party's monopoly on political power. However, revolution as a socioeconomic transformation is the task of the masses and a political party alone cannot become the only executor of it. For this purpose the party nowadays shares power with other political forces in society and will struggle in the future too to secure a greater role for the party in political sovereignty by lawful means and on a democratic basis. The gains and actual values of the party in its years of power, for which thousands of our compatriots lost their lives, will remain. These values which are embodied in the country's constitution and will obviously be embodied in the future constitution, such as independence and national sovereignty, which belongs to the people, democracy, civil freedoms, the right to education, the right to receiving medical services, the right to work, equality under the law, and the active role of the people in socioeconomic life—these gains will be preserved today and in the future and we will put them into practice.

We have acheived most of our aspirations: as the famous saying goes, revolution has a begining but no end. Moreover, history's memory will never forget the heroism and devotion of those patriots who, in difficult moments and with their pure feelings, took up weapons and fought and will fight for the defense of the interests of the homeland and the people.

Have we acted against the aspirations of the martyrs of the path of revolution by going to national reconciliation? No, in no way. The aspirations of all those who struggled even to the ultimate sacrifice was the prosperity of the people of Afghanistan, [applause], and war cannot bring prosperity to our people. Therefore, the best service for the pure souls of our martyrs is acceleration of the peace process by which we can achieve the end of war, democracy, progress and prosperity for the people. Only in conditions of peace can we look after the children and relatives of the martyrs as well as the war disabled. A policy which favors an unnecessary increase in the number of martyrs and disabled and the destruction of the people's common wealth is not a national policy. It will never have any Islamic, national, and humanitarian foundation. [applause]

One can also ask what the future of decrees and laws passed in the past 12 years will be. Let the people choose what remains in force. What the people do not regard as corresponding with their genuine interests can be rendered void. [applause] Any laws which have restricted or restrict the righteous and legitimate rights of the people cannot be called revolutionary laws because revolutionary ideals, in their true meaning, can only remain alive within the limit of humanity, morality, and democracy, not beyond this. Therefore, we can explicitly say that we are supporting revolution, and we wholly reject revolution which means evil, forceful action, anger, monopoly of power at the price of continuing war, threats to the fundamental freedom of individuals, and forceful subjugation of society within stereotype theoretical and dogmatic frameworks. We are in favor of the revolution which means the progress of the country, the consolidation of the national unity, democracy, prosperity, and defense of the people. [applause] We support nationwide and gradual revolution, peaceful revolution with the participation of all people. Let this revolution be achieved in action without there being talk about it every day.

We now raise the issue of ideology. During the reporting sessions the question was raised of which ideology is being followed by our party. First of all we must say that such a question is linked with a historic mistake. Traditionally, it was perceived that the creation of a party is effected by choosing an ideology. The history of parties, movements, socioeconomic organizations, which are formed for the progress of the country and the prosperity of their people, indicates that the foundation of these parties was laid down on the foundation of general thinking to serve the people or a specific social stratum, and sometimes the parties and movements endeavor to utilize systems or a particular system of thought and thus adopt a theoretical platform which covers their program of action. For example, the creation of the PDPA was not on the basis of any ideological need but on the basis of the historic necessity of the struggle to salvage sopciety from backwardness and secure the progress of the country and stability, and bring about jsutice and equality. It is because of the implementation of the party policy that its activity in most areas came under the influence of a specific ideology during the process of action. This attitude set up great obstacles for the creation of a broad national base for the party and caused serious damage to the realization of party policy for securing the unity of patriotic and progressive forces in Afghanistan.

Therefore, at the threshold of its reconstruction the party raised this question: How can it be a desirable organization? Whether a limited collective of cothinkers—this is a question—or a broad, nationwide party for the realization of specific policy devoted to the restoration of peace, redevelopment, progress of the country and the service of the people? [applause] In all documents of the party's action program we can find various political views and opinions devoted to the progress of the country and to the prosperity of the people. The experience of the PDPA has also established that the theory of a party has an unbreakable link with the socioeconomic conditions of the country in which it operates. For this purpose it would be irrational for a party to limit its theoretic foundation by unilateral and unnecessary commitment to this or that ideology. As I emphasized earlier, the party, above all, relies on national and patriotic theory, on the religous beliefs, customs and traditions of the people of Afghanistan and on the experience gained from over three years of the policy of national reconciliation. Of course, we value the experience of other countries to and also utilize the advantageous views of thinkers and great scholars of the world without prejudice—that is to say, on the one hand, without prejudice and, on the other hand, without commitment. We utilize them for the theoretic enrichment of the party in accordance with the national reconciliation and supreme interest of that country.

I would be incorrect to speak of an ideological void in the party when we are sensibly talking of using the achievements of human thought. The program, charter, and policy of our party have fully brought into existence the foundation for the ideological unity of the party. We are the indefatigable seekers of truth and pupils in the school of life. This fact will enhance our ability to realize the great and humane policy of national reconciliation and will liberate us to find the truth instead of what resembles the truth. Now let us take this question: What path of growth is favored by our party? Is it the growth of capitalism or socialism?

Let us go back to the past once again. In connection with chosing these two roads for development, where did we start from? The model of noncapitalist development, that is simplifying issues and returning to a theoritical, unproven proposition, avoiding one or many phases of society's natural development, was not chosen on the basis of analyzing the objective state of society but from rigid, alien, theoritical formulas. The negative effects of the party's defective thinking regarding the issue of development revealed itself when the party took the political power. Giving preference to the development of the state sector and ignoring the true role of the private sector in economic life, introducing radical and hasty land reforms without considering its economic effectiveness and social consequences, and lack of attention to attracting foreign investment resulted in tragic economic and social consequences. On a world scale, among the developing countries Afghanistan belonged and still belongs to the group of countries which was called the poverty region, and which had the most primitive foundations of economic development and social welfare. As a result, a precise and specific attitude is necessary for the development of every production factor.

In spite of the unpleasant practical results, the party was following a policy of simplification based on implementing dogmas. The new thinking of our party leans toward the natural and historic development of society not in avoiding it. The issue before us, from the economic view point, is how we can create an effective economic mechanism in order to attract various kinds of investment to the country to promote fruitful activity ensuring speedy economic and social development. We can do this by expanding the market economy and promoting free economic investments. We declare frankly that we are in favor of speedy economic and social development toward creating a modern and developed society and a level of social welfare in keeping with this. This prospect puts before us urgent and specific tasks: strengthening the role of private investment and enhancing the economic effectiveness of its operation, attracting increasing amounts of foreign investment and assistance, reconstructing our war-stricken economy, and maximizing the use of various kinds of investment in the country. These are the issues to which our country at present should find answers, and this will take a long time.

We should resolutely abandon the obsolete policies based on creating obstacles to the natural development of the country and be aware that we should not give answers today to the solution of problems to which future generations should find answers. This is neither our duty nor in the bounds of our possibilities, because predictions about the long-term future have mostly resulted in political hoarding and damaged the cause of active participation of various social groups.

I would also like to dwell on another issue. In the present state of the party, how do we assess and how do we appraoch relations between the nationalities and tribes of the country? It is obvious that internal factors have an important role in settling the issues of Afghanistan. And one of the most important aspects of the solution of the issue in the present situation—first and foremost in order to achieve national reconciliation, end of war, and maintain peace and stability in Afghanistan—is the correct, sensible, and principled regulation and compilation of party policy concerning all nationalities, tribes, clans, regions, and various religious sects of our unitary country of Afghanistan. This constitutes the essence of the policy of national reconciliation.

The Afghanistan of today is radically different from the Afghanistan of 12 years ago from the view point of the formation of forces and the level of political and national awareness of the people.

During the past 12 years many transformations have taken place in the objective conditions for political awareness and national awareness of the people. This is one of the important developments over these years. It should be stressed that during these years, as a result of various types of interference from abroad, a mistaken approach was adopted by a number of the officials during the first years after the April revolution and continuation and intensification of war. Many problems in the spheres of social and national relations appeared. In addition the formations of armed opposition used regional, tribal, national, and religious issues in their antistate campaign, and their own internal rivalry created direct threats to the national unity of our country. As a result, discord and regional and tribal issues caused internecine and intertribal conflicts and created a problem that needs deep thought. Our party, as a nationwide party which represents all the forces in favor of peace and progress, and the national and tribal groups of the country, believes that the struggle to protect the independence and territorial integrity of the homeland, of our indivisible country, to consolidate fraternal and cooperative links among the various nationalities and tribes of our country, and to strengthen national unity and understanding is one of its main duties. The party thinks that the national sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan belongs to everyone and, naturally, the creation of political sovereignty in the future—as a result of a political solution and parliamentary elections—will be a reflection of a broad coalition comprising the representatives of all the sides involved in the present war, ensuring participation with equal rights and without prejudice to all the nationalities, regions,and religious groups of the people of Afghanistan who now have a national awareness. The party thinks that with the formation of a coalition government and a government with broad national and social bases, favorable conditions will be created for the participation, without prejudice and with equal rights, of all the representatives of all the regions and nationalities of the country in the system of central and local administration. New forms of administration, based on democracy in the localities and regions, will be transformed into a permanent foundation of state sovereignty in Afghanistan. This will create balanced social and national pillars for the Republic of Afghanistan.

The party attaches special importance to the commanders within the country and to the issue of giving concessions to them in order to join the process of national peace, and invites all the oppositions forces and their leaders as well as impartial personalities for talks and dialogue and a political solution with a view to ensuring and consolidating the foundaticn of the national unity of the people of Afghanistan, and protecting the territorial integrity of the country. At the same time, it should be added that the removal of disagreement and national and social conflicts, which is viewed as a direct result of the continuation of war, has an unbreakable link with the establishments of peace and the ending of bloodshed and with the move toward the consolidation of democracy in the country.

With regard to the national issue, which covers the creation of favorable conditions to ensure the necessary political, social, economic, and cultural rights for all nationalities, tribes, and clans of the country, we should pay deepest attention—not with slogans but with practical measures—to intensifying efforts towards equality and fraternity among the nationalities and tribes, and to consolidating unity and understanding among them.

We are now looking at where our party is placed among the political forces of the country. The reconstruction of our party proves clearly that the issue of right and left is not suitable. Our party has a political policy which is to prepare the ground for the joint struggle of all patriots and peace-loving, democratic, justice-loving, and progressive elements of Afghanistan. The new thinking of the party is alienated from any type of extremism. It will struggle to stand as the center of the unity of all the national forces in favor of peace in Afghanistan. We do not understand any other stance but the defense of the national interest of Afghanistan and peace and progress in the country. For this reason, the party has actively supported in the new principles of its policy active dialogue, cooperation, and mutually beneficial relations with other parties, forces, and social and political organizations based on the nation and homeland. With respect to forces, formations, and personalities, it should be said that the party, especially after adopting the national reconciliation policy, has made many efforts to encourage them toward a solution of the issue of Afghanistan by means of dialogue and talks. It is on the basis of this policy that a number of local commanders along with their armed and unarmed members joined the national reconciliation policy and talks and contacts are continuing with others. Recently, moderate oppositon parties and formations have shown an interest in talks and dialogue with the state. The party will continue this policy in future too and will take further measures to unite all the national and patriotic forces to end war and ensure peace in the country. Therefore, the party sees its place and position alongside all the peaceloving, national, democratic, and reformist parties, organizations, forces, and personalities in the country.

Finally, it is necessary to speak about the development of the international situation in the period between two PDPA congresses, which constitutes our new approach toward the issues of foreign policy. The first party congress was held at a time when the system of international relations was still operated under the stamp of the cold war. The division of the world into two military-political blocs and sphere of influence, efforts to increase the military capability of NATO and the Warsaw Pact and the creation of military, political, and regional pacts as military strategic components of the superpowers, influenced the newly independent countries by increasing their economic dependency on the developed industrial countries, and the lack of international cooperation to remove and eliminate world conflicts were the outstanding characteristics of this period. The quantitative and qualitative increase in nuclear weapons arsenals of the superpowers, the creation of numerous military bases in various parts of the world, extensive regional conflicts such as the Indo-China war, dictatorial regimes in a large number of countries, the formation of supportive economic and blocs and the resultant rivalries in various corners of the world, the increasing gap between the developed industrial world and the backward countries—these unholy results of this period.

One can claim that at the center of the political strategic thinking of the aforementioned period, the vision was to ensure security by means of power. It was not long before new primary tendencies were created with their own approach to world issues. These developed speedily. The nonaligned movement transformed from a small, isolated, underdeveloped group into an active, effective, and independent force in international relations. The United Nations was moving toward a democratic collection of countries as a result of the membership of a large number of underdeveloped countries. And its role was enhanced in organizing the political, legal, and economic aspects of relations between states, and in solving regional and international conflicts and tension. Pressure to ensure democracy and justice, based on accepted international norms and standards in all international relations is increasing. All these developments have opened up a new chapter in relations between the super-powers whose positive effect is perceptible in a broad spectrum of international issues. Bilateral and multilateral talks on a large number of issues connected with armaments, armed oppositions, systems of regional and international security, economic cooperation, and other fields were launched and the tension in some of the world's hotbeds reduced. The Helsinki process began and ended successfully and the SALT I and II agreements. These developments strengthened the hopes for deepening and consolidating the tendencies toward the creation of a peaceful world and toward coexistence among the various economic-social systems.

However, there is a very long path to change the vision of security by means of power to the vision of general security at the lowest level, by means of greater facilities. A number of sad transformations in the late seventies, such as the decision to increase the military budgets of the developed countries, efforts for the qualitative upgrading of strategic and tactical weapons, a halt to talks on the dismantling of the military bases in the Indian Ocean, the entry of Soviet forces in Afghanistan, and the relative economic recession in some of the developed, industrial countries, based on the condition of the market economy and so on, greatly jeopardized the positive trends that had taken root at the beginning of the 1970's, and paved the way for the revival of a new period of cold war.

As a result, the SALT agreements were relegated to oblivion and intense stagnation reigned supreme over the system of regional and international talks. A new era dawned between the superpowers regarding the arms race, as a result of which various types of new atomic weapons were placed in Europe. The concentration of foreign armed forces increased in sensitive and strategic points of the world and the level of international and economic cooperation was reduced. The continuation of such developments would have drawn the world into an abyss.

Fortunately, with the beginning of the era of new thinking, the bandwagon of the process of rivalry and military confrontation was stopped and a process began of reaching full understanding between two superpowers and their political and military allies on a large number of contentious issues. This constructive cooperation had notable gains. The agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States caused the elimination of the medium and short-range weapons of both countries from Europe. [as heard] A new system of control and monitoring nuclear tests in both countries was created. Talks on reducing armed forces in Europe were accelerated. The traditional boundaries between east and west collapsed. Cooperation to resolve regional tensions increased and a policy of reconciliation was introduced as an instrument for the political solution of these conflicts. Examples of these are the signing of the Geneva accords, the independence of Namibia, elections in Nicaragua, peace talks in Cambodia, and others.

The momentum of new efforts in the sphere of international cooperation stems from eradication of ideology from foreign policy. In light of this, mutual assistance and cooperation between all countries of the world manifests itself as the requirement of time to overcome world and mankind's problems and difficulties.

The issue now is not only to reconcile the security, political, and military interests of big powers—it is the bigger and more fundamental issue of ensuring general security to guarantee the legitimate security interests of all countries. Likewise, the interpretation of economic, social, cultural and ecological cooperations between all countries in the interests of all humanity is at stake.

Consolidation of mutual dependence of the countries of the world in various spheres opens before mankind only one reasonable and realistic road—the forging of the legitimate national interests of every country with the indisputable interests of the world community.

It is under such conditions that the PDPA convenes its second congress. The party's program can thus only be objective and realistic when it reflects the realities of the contemporary world as they are, and explains the party tasks vis-a-vis them. Because of this, we perceive the contemporary world in its newest dimensions. A world whose main characteristics are not division on the basis of opposing systems but cooperation and mutual assistance, preference of political methods for settling disputes and struggle for the survival of mankind.

With the true perception of the contemporary world and the great change which have appeared in the foreign policies of the countries of the world on the basis of new thinking, the PDPA supports the principles of peace, international cooperation, peaceful coexistence, settling of disputes between countries by political means—particularly regional tensions—and believes that the loyalty of the Republic of Afghanistan to the principles of Nonaligned Movement is of great importance.

The PDPA program documents have paid particular attention to expansion of relations with all countries and relations of good neighborliness and cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan with neighboring countries and Islamic countries. In light of the new thinking whch has come about in a large number of countries through international relations, the PDPA has considered the independent, nonaligned, and neutral stance of the country as the infallible principles of the foreign policy of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Esteemed delegates, this was the report by the PDPA Central Committee in the period between the convocation of the two congresses and the urgent tasks of the present moment.

The Central Committee is proud that the party in its second congress enjoys such a level of organizational strength and political relations at national and international levels that could have only been hoped for by delegates in its first congress.

The Central Committee prays for the sacred souls of all martyrs of the party who fought selflessly for the realization of its aspirations and who, by offering their dear lives, have given the future generations the lessons of steadfastness in the battle and struggle. The Central Committee asks of Almighty God forgiveness from them.

The Central Committee expresses endless appreciation and thanks to all those gallant party members, who, during the eventful years of the party's life, fought for the aspirations of the party and people by answering the Central Committee call. They have engaged with enthusiasm in political activities, production, cultural and creative work and have sacrificed their personal welfare for the prosperity of our hounorable compartiots. [applause]

The party Central Committee expresses its sincere thanks to all personnel of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces who have spared no sacrifice in defense of the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests of the homeland for the maintainance of peace and tranquility. [applause]

The epics of the heroic fighters of the Armed Forces during the long year, particularly during the independent defense, have aroused great respect from our people.

The Central Committee also expresses thanks and appreciation to all supporters of the party, all members of the social and professional organizations, members of the National Front of Afghanistan, 'ulema, clergy, leaders and elders of the country, and all aware compatriots who have supported the party's policy and have taken part in its implementation to the best of their ability. [applause]

The Central Committee believes in the fact that our party, by objectively analyzing the present realities and by admitting mistakes, shortcomings, and blunders, and through courageous self-criticism, has prevented the repetition of these mistakes. The party has by virtue of its role as an experienced political party which, by enhanced political awareness, is able to accelerate the present moments' process of uniting all national and patriotic forces and perform its historic mission in a meritious manner. The renewal of the party provides the most assured foundation for this fact. Renewal is the most essential condition for the party's survival in the political scene and for its further glowing victories.

Renewal should embrace all aspects of the party life—including organizational, ideological, and structure of the party as a whole and every party organization. Renewal should become the cause of every party organization and every party member.

Auspicious be the second congress of the PDPA!

Long live the homeland!

Long live peace, democracy, and social justice!

Thank you for your attention. [applause]

## India

### Outgoing Army Chief Sharma Interviewed

*BK0107093590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Interview with outgoing Army Chief General V.N. Sharma by Bahadur Singh, All India Radio's special correspondent, on the "Spotlight" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bahadur Singh] General V.N. Sharma, in your 40 years of distinguished career, what would you say is the landmark in your career?

[Sharma] In a very excellent service like the Indian Army, it is really difficult to point out any particular landmark. I would say that the very fact that I joined as a second lieutenant itself was a landmark in June 1950, but looking back, I feel perhaps my tenure as the chief of the Army Staff, and because it is during this tenure that one really understood and felt the Indian Army; and then to have the honor and privilege of leading it through some fairly awkward times in the last few years, has indeed been a landmark.

[Bahadur Singh] How do you view the geopolitical situation, particularly in our part of the world?

[Sharma] I think the geopolitical situation, especially in our environment, is tense and it is going to pose some difficulties for us in future years. If you look at this situation, it is really the upsurge of the human society in South Asia and in the lesser developed regions of the world to gain a better life for themselves. In these areas, there is a struggle for leadership, there is a struggle for a place in the sun, and so the tenseness between communities, between castes, and between individual countries is bound to precipitate. I feel that as far as India is concerned, this geopolitical situation is being faced very well on two basic counts—basically to keep a reasonably strong and effective defense force and secondly to ensure a reasonable standard of development of our people. I feel that as the years pass, I am very optimistic that India at least will show the path to our neighborhood as to how to deal with these social problems.

[Bahadur Singh] General Sharma, now that the Army is called out time and again to assist the civil administration, how do you view to such use of the Army?

[Sharma] The utilization of the Army in aid to civil authority for internal security and law and order duties, as also for assistance for disaster relief, is part of the role of the Indian Army and has been so even during British days. In our country, we don't have any force like the United States has, for example the National Guards, which can be called out for emergency by any governor of one of the states and basically comprises fully militarily trained armed forces but who are citizen soldiers. In our case, the Indian Army is the only intervention force left in the hands of the civil authorities and the government should law and order not be possible to be controlled by police forces. Therefore, this is part of our role, and I think we will have to accept that this role will continue for some years to come till our democracy and our development take root and these civil problems become less. However, speaking as a soldier, the disadvantage to the Army here is that months of training are lost, much money is spent in movement of units and keeping troops on duty for many days and many months, budgets go awry because you are not planned for such action but you have to do it; and with the result, then the claim goes that the defense budget is too high. Also, it is necessary for the police forces and the civil administration and our people to function in accordance with the tenets of our democracy, which are clearly given in our Constitution. Once this wisdom dawns and the efficiency of state police forces and central police forces is improved sufficiently, I feel that rapidly you will find less and less utilization of the Army for such tasks. We also feel that there has to be a force separate to the Army, yet as good as the Army, and that is why you recently heard the prime minister speak of the raising of a new force called the Rashtriya Rifles where ex-servicemen and the jawans [soldiers] who are leaving the Army earlier in life can join, and which will be a very effective force to control such actions and they would be different from police force because they would be controlled by Army officers on deputation, similar to the Assam Rifles. We feel such a force may assist the government in not calling the regular Army out too often.

[Bahadur Singh] Now coming to the professional side, what is the pace of modernization in the Indian Army?

[Sharma] Modernization is a relative term. The question is: Modernization for what? Basically in India, we have to keep reasonably up with our neighborhood. So, if neighboring forces get modernized, then we also have to get modernized to that extent. But I must inform you that modernization of an army is an extremely expensive proposition. Millions and millions of rupees will have to be spent on new equipment, on development of this equipment, of induction and training on this equipment, and then finally its utilization. And military equipment does not last very long, and so the renewal of that equipment after some years again is a requirement. For this, military budgets have to be kept to some reasonable level. However, as far as the Indian Army is concerned, I would like to say that our attempt to modernize is enough to the proportion that is necessary to keep our frontiers well guarded. So, to that extent we are reasonably well off; but things are getting very expensive; and foreign nations, when they have to supply equipment et cetera, it becomes a very difficult proposition and hence the attempt to producing in India has to be encouraged. But, in this basis of production of equipment for armed forces in India, what we have to make sure is the public sector and DGOF [Directorate General of Ordnance Factories] type of organizations must become more competitive in the market economy, and we should also diversify much of our needs to the private sector so that the competition among our own businessmen is available and that in itself will reduce prices. We also have to look into the business of exporting some of these weapons, which are less lethal, to other nations to keep the economic side correctly balanced.

[Bahadur Singh] Now is the time to know about the state of preparedness of the Indian Army, and especially so in the present context when we are hearing news from across the border also about the tensions prevailing on our borders.

[Sharma] The present state of preparedness of the Indian Army is adequate for the tasks in hand in the immediate future. We have got a very highly developed modern army across our borders, and, therefore, we have to keep pace with that. I am personally fully confident that for any type of emergency that you may have to face, we are adequately provided for and adequately prepared—both in training and in equipment—to carry out our duties effectively and very efficiently. As far as future years are concerned, we have to keep watching, as I said earlier, the development of the neighboring forces so that we keep pace with them and spend at least the minimum quantum of money that is necessary to keep the preparedness at a high pitch and ready for operations at all times.

[Bahadur Singh] General Sharma, one last question for you. This is in regard to the development of nuclear weapons across our borders. We are hearing all over the world that there is development of nuclear weapons across our borders. We would like to know from you the steps taken with regard to security and safety against possible use of nuclear weapons by our potential enemies.

[Sharma] Now nuclear weapons and their utilization—what is termed as nuclear warfare is a very horrendous thought. Utilization of such weapons by any nation would cause mass destruction of humanity, mass destruction of buildings and places and life will no longer be the same on this planet. So, therefore, wise nations all over the world have decided to abjure the use of nuclear weapons. Now comes the question of the stories we hear in the press and intelligence reports from other nations in regard to the development of such weapons by our neighbor, it is for us to assess whether these reports are correct or incorrect. But as a soldier I must tell you that a reply to a nuclear weapon capability of a potential hostile nation is to possess the same capability yourself, and unless you possess such a capability, there is no deterrence available from the use of such weapons by your adversary. But this is a difficult decision and has to be taken by our government and our people as time passes and as we become clear in our mind as to whether the reports we hear are valid and true, or whether they are just fake reports put in there or reports which are not so true. So, this decision is not in the hands of a soldier, it is in the hands of the people and its government. The desire of all our people and of all soldiers is to avoid nuclear warfare under all circumstances, and, I have no doubt that nations in the world who possess these weapons—possess them solely to deter their use by their enemies, rather than possess them to actually use them themselves. So, we take it as that is the line on which human endeavor is moving in this earth of ours—that we should try and prevent this utilization by international means and by diplomatic and political means and other means. But, as I said if we find that that does not work, there is no other [word indistinct] except to possess these weapons yourselves.

[Bahadur Singh] Your message for the Army.

[Sharma] Well, for me it has been a great adventure to be in the Indian Army. My message to my fellow soldiers is that we, willy-nilly by virtue of our training and the way we have handled our affairs these last 43 years, are today one of the finest fighting machines on earth. We should be reasonably proud of that and we should be determined to maintain those standards that we have had so far, which are basically embedded in rock discipline or, shall I say, rock-like discipline, staunch determination to do our duty and to keep self as the last priority during our lives. So, the credo of the Indian officer corps really is that the country comes first, the troops they command and the people come second, and the individual himself comes last; and I think that message is a good enough message for all of us in this very fine Army.

[Bahadur Singh] Thank you, General Sharma.

## Government Clarifies Amnesty International Visits

*BK0207170690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] Government has clarified that members of the Amnesty International will be permitted access to the country only for private visits or for a dialogue with the Government on general issues. A press note of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the Indian missions abroad have been authorized to issue visas only for these purposes. The clarification comes in the wake of conflicting reports in the press on the matter.

## 800 Detained as Punjab Students Call for Strike

*BK0207071990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] The Punjab government has made elaborate arrangements to maintain law and order in view of today's bundh [strike] call given by the Manjit Faction of the All-India Sikh Students Federation. According to an official spokesman, patrolling by the security forces on the state and national highways and railway tracks has been intensified and pickets have been posted in all sensitive areas. The district authorities have been instructed to ensure that nobody disrupts normal life. As a preventive measure, about 800 persons have been detained in different parts of the state. The state police chief, Mr Gill, has said that nobody will be allowed to force the closure of shops and business establishments and to disrupt essential services.

A State Roadways spokesman said buses will ply on roads with security guards. The Northern Railway has announced that all main express and branch-line trains in the state will run as usual. A spokesman of the Ferozepore Division of the Northern Railways told our correspondent that all trains are running in the division as per schedule. He said about a dozen control rooms have been set up to keep a constant watch on the situation.

According to reports so far, the trains and buses are running normally in all parts of the state. Meanwhile, the president of the Perumal Akali Dal, Mahant Sevadas Singh, has opposed the bundh call. In a statement in Chandigarh, he said that Mr. Manjit Singh has been arrested by the police on criminal charges and he does not [word indistinct] of an organization to use such tactics to seek release.

## Police Chief Says Strike Fails

*BK0207165590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] In Punjab, the bundh [strike] called by the All India Sikh Students Federation-Manjit Faction passed off peacefully today. The state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, said in Chandigarh this evening that except for the supply of milk, vegetables, and fodder from the rural areas, which was marginally affected in some parts, the bundh failed to affect the normal life in the state. He said trains and government buses plied normally, and private buses which remained off the road in the morning started operating during the day. Shops and business establishments functioned as usual, barring in few pockets in Amritsar, Faridkot, Bhatinda, Jullundhur, Gurdaspur, and Ludhiana districts where the percentage of closed shops varied between 10 to 30 percent only. The police chief said about 900 preventive arrests have been made in connection with the bundh.

However, the All-India Sikh Students Federation-Manjit Faction has claimed that the bundh was a success.

# Iran

## Reportage on Velayati-Perez de Cuellar Meeting

### Iran-Iraq Talks Discussed

*LD0307091390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Jul 90*

[Text] The UN secretary general and our country's foreign minister met in Geneva last night. Our correspondent has compiled a report in this connection, to which we draw your attention:

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister and Xavier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, held a two-and-a-half hour conference at the European headquarters of the UN in Geneva last night. In the meeting—the first hour and a half of which was held in total privacy, continued in the presence of senior experts from our country's Foreign Ministry and the UN Secretariat—the UN secretary general praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's active role in recent months toward further efforts aimed at the total implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

Our country's foreign minister, for his part, while reiterating the important role of the UN secretary general and the necessity of strengthening it, and the implementation of Resolution 598, reaffirmed that the resolution is an integral whole which cannot be watered down, and which has sufficient international support. Now it should be clear that the focus of discussions should not be the clauses of the resolution, but on its implementation.

In the interview after these talks, Dr. Velayati termed his talks with the UN secretary general as positive and constructive, reiterating that in the opinion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the UN secretary general is earnest in his pursuit of the implementation of Resolution 598. He described the possibility of trilateral talks between himself, the UN secretary general, and the foreign minister of Iraq as depending upon the UN secretary general's evaluation of his meeting with the foreign minister of Iraq.

In reply to the question of whether or not there is the possibility of a meeting between the heads of Iran and Iraq in the near future, he remarked that it is still too soon to talk about that. The UN secretary general will meet and confer with Tariq 'Aziz, the foreign minister of Iraq, before noon today and if necessary, the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq will hold trilateral talks with the UN secretary general tonight, to pave the wasy for the UN secretary general's imminent visit to the region.

### UN Sees Trilateral Talks Possible

*LD0307092990 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT 3 Jul 90*

[Text] Geneva, July 3 IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar here Monday [2 July] at the request of the latter to resume efforts for implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. The two held private talks for one and a half hours on Iran-Iraq peace talks.

The Iranian minister and members of his delegation then held a meeting with Perez de Cuellar and his assistants to study issues concerning the Resolution 598.

Speaking to IRNA correspondent in New York, Velayati said at the end of the meeting that the Iranian delegation placed emphasis on the need for enforcement of the resolution and U.N. chief's role in its implementation. The U.N. secretary general is determined to follow up the task the Security Council has assigned him, Velayati said. The ground is now appropriate for the U.N. secretary general to succeed in enforcement of the resolution, Velayati noted.

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi who also attended the talks told IRNA that Perez de Cuellar seemed to be enthusiastically following up his responsibility.

A U.N. spokeswoman Monday speaking to reporters here did not rule out the possibility of a trilateral talks (between the U.N. chief and the two foreign ministers). A source close to the Iranian delegation said holding of trilateral talks depends on U.N. chief's evaluation of the two sides' talks.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani invited the U.N. chief last month to visit Tehran and Baghdad to follow up the issues concerning enforcement of the Resolution 598. Iraq has also agreed in principle with Perez de Cuellar's visit to the region.

Observers believe that the recent efforts to revive the Iran-Iraq peace talks are a reiteration that the Resolution 598 is the only solution in establishing peace between the two countries.

### Velayati: 'Too Soon' for Summit

*AU0307080490 Paris AFP in English 0008 GMT 3 Jul 90*

[Text] Geneva, July 3 (AFP)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Monday [2 July] it was "too soon" to envisage a summit meeting between Iran and Iraq. Mr. Velayati spoke after more than one hour of talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar here following an unprecedented offer made by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in a letter to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani calling for a summit between them in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Velayati said his talks with the secretary general were "very fruitful and constructive". He would not elaborate.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who is to see Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz early Tuesday [3 July], has suggested that the two foreign ministers agree to a direct meeting. Talks between the two parties that opened in August 1988 have so far been held only through U.N. envoys.

Mr. Velayati said after his meeting with the U.N. secretary general direct talks would depend on the latter's decision after his talks with Mr. 'Aziz.

Diplomatic sources said if a meeting was called it would have to be held before noon because Mr. Velayati was due to leave Geneva Tuesday afternoon. Although Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has categorically refused to attend talks in Saudi Arabia, with which Iran has maintained no diplomatic ties since April 1988, he was favourable to the idea of a summit under U.N. auspices.

Iraq demands total sovereignty over the disputed Shatt al-Arab waterway and demands that the release of 100,000 prisoners of war, including 70,000 Iraqi POWs, take place before the withdrawal of Iraqi troops to the international borders. Teheran rejects Iraq's claim of sovereignty over the waterway and insists that a POW exchange take place simultaneously with the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iranian territory.

On June 19, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani revealed that Iranian and Iraqi representatives were meeting to prepare direct talks between the two governments, but it was unclear whether he was referring to the Iraqi summit proposal.

### Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Judicial Conference

*LD0107154190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 1 Jul 90*

["Excerpt" from opening speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of Iran, at a three-day nationwide conference of judicial officials on 23 June; place not indicated; from the "Voice of Justice" program—recorded]

[Text] I have now fully viewed the condition of the judiciary, with specific regard to the powerful personality of Ayatollah Yazdi in that respect. I have closely observed his conduct, character, and ideology, and have total faith in him, the results of which I have seen in the judicial dimensions.

However, the realization of this issue should be expedited. The longer we continue to go forward in the course of the revolution, consolidating the country's stability and security, the more faith we gain in the role of the judiciary. It is a common belief that the judiciary has always been expected to deal with the big-time criminal [dane-doroshtha], not paying attention to petty criminals and those of the same category. This is something very commonplace. In my view, it is the principle that counts.

It is often assumed that it would be sufficient to quash the taqhutis [reference to the supporters of the deposed Shah], the tycoons, and similar trends. Well, what we call big-time criminals are not always comprised of financial crooks; taqhutis, hoarders, and so on. They are among the big-time criminals, but as you are aware; there are more delicate parts to the case which lie elsewhere. Sometimes the big-time criminals are amongst the others, others who are powerful figures in the society; powerful groups in the society; who have connections with the major powers, personalities, directors, and centers of power, be they clerical, political, executive, or economic. The real big-time criminals are those who hold real power in the country: cultural and propoganda.

Indeed, the judiciary should be such that the judge is one who holds a high calibre and strong moral standing so as to be able to confront any kind of injustice. In various societies, such injustices always have arisen from the corners of power. In the course of our history, especially today, we can well analyze such cases. Often, in societies such as ours, there are well-known figures who have been elected or appointed by the top officials. They are not bad individuals: they are good individuals. The danger comes from those around them [havashi]: their families, friends, and similar connections. The judiciary itself is no exception in this case, as the judiciary itself is ranked among the major centers of power, and that includes the entire judicial ranks.

As the official in charge of the executive power, there is one point I should mention, which is that the best factor which may bring about stability, security, and credibility in society is the serious and just presence of the judiciary. Once again, I reiterate that is how I have see the trend of the judiciary for as long as I have been in office. That is the direction in which the trend is moving. Steps have been taken, and I hope more effective steps wil be taken in the future.

### Editorial Condemns Saudi Efforts for Improved Ties

*NC0207115390 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Jun 90 pp 1, 11*

[Editorial: "The Al Sa'ud Regime and More Deceit"]

[Text] On the eve of the hajj, pilgrims from all over the world are heading for Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] to attend the spectacular hajj ceremony. Meanwhile, the Iranian nation has become the target of the wrath of the enemies of Islam because of its desire for Islam and its efforts to revive the lost grandeur of the Muslims. The enemies of Islam and the Al Sa'ud regime have been assigned to prevent the presence of the Iranian pilgrims during the hajj ceremonies for the third consecutive year.

This is a wretched mission which the enemies of Islam have assigned to the Al Sa'ud regime. The mission is to prevent the presence in the hajj ceremonies of those "enamored of the grandeur of Islam" and the "forerunners of the revival of Islam in the century of the reign of blasphemy" and to thus complete the past mission which was to massacre the pilgrims to the house of God. But because of their great concern over public opinion in the world of Islam, they want to do everything possible to control the negative repercussions that such a wretched mission will have and to hide their treacheries as much as possible.

Within this context, Fahd—the direct perpetrator of the massacre of the 400 pilgrims to the house of God—has expressed readiness to improve relations with Iran and has said that he wants "to overcome all the obstacles impeding the improvement of relations between the two countries."

Those who are unaware of the depth of the issue and do not understand the extent of the Al Sa'ud regime's malevolence, may—at first glance—be fooled by these words and think that apparently the Al Sa'ud regime is trying to make amends for its treacherous past.

It is exactly such an impression that the Al Sa'ud regime is trying to create with these words. The massacre of the 400 pilgrims in the sacred sanctity of the house of God and the blatant enmity with the Islamic Revolution and the world movement of Islam revealed the political face of the Al Sa'ud rulers to the Muslim nations and shed light on issues, thus granting the Muslims the opportunity to become better acquainted with reality and to clearly see the unmasked face of the Al Sa'ud rulers.

A large number of pilgrims from various countries of the world have already left for Hejaz, and another large group is preparing to join them within the next few days. Naturally, the empty place of the Iranian people will be felt by the pilgrims to the house of God. And the question that arises is: Why does the Al Sa'ud have such a great grudge against the Islamic Revolution and each and every Iranian? What is the reason for so much malevolence? And why is Fahd not prepared to hear the voice of protest by the Muslims against Israel and America, and thus he tramples on the clear teachings of Islam and the Koran in order to serve his masters?

Fahd has resorted to deceit in his effort to confront the growing wave of Muslim discontent throughout the world; and on the eve of the hajj ceremonies, he wants to create the impression that apparently his problems with Iran are being solved and that, more importantly, the Al Sa'ud regime has extended a hand of goodwill toward Iran for the solution of problems, and that if nothing is achieved from now on, then Iran will be to blame for the continuing tension in relations.

This is a new propaganda ploy and a blatant lie which the Al Sa'ud regime wants to use in a bid to fool the Muslim nations and to diminish the extent of the Muslims' sacred wrath against the traitors to the holy shrines. It is an effort to discolor the fact that the Al Sa'ud regime lacks the competence to manage the holy shrines and the fact that the Muslim nations and 'ulema should adopt a decision on the management of these shrines. The Al Sa'ud regime wants Muslims to forget this issue.

This is the crafty objective pursued by the Al Sa'ud regime. Naturally, the Muslim nations will uncover this plot with greater alertness and awareness and they will not allow the wretched face of Fahd to hide behind a mask now that this mask has fallen off.

## Besharati Receives Malaysian Official

*LD0207165990 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA—Iran and Malaysia Monday exchanged views on cooperation among Muslim states, developments in Afghanistan, trend of Iran-Iraq peace talks, and efforts of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in peaceful settlement of Cambodian crisis.

In a meeting between Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and his Malaysian counterpart Abdullah Fazel here today, the latter conveyed deep condolences of the Malaysian king, government and people for the June 21 killer earthquake in Iran. The two sides also underlined overall expansion and strengthening of relations among Muslim states.

Besharati and his Malaysian counterpart called for further expansion of Tehran-Kuala Lumpur relations.

The Malaysian official arrived here Sunday [1 July] aboard an aircraft carrying relief aid of his government for the quake-affected areas.

## President on Expanding Cooperation With Kuwait

*LD0207195390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kuwait, at a meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today, presented a report to the president on his mission, the region, and the future of ties with the Persian Gulf littoral states. According to a report of the Central News Unit, in the course of this meeting the president expressed gratitude for the sincere sentiments, sympathy, and cooperation of the Muslim people of the region—and particularly the nation and the government of Kuwait—with the earthquake victims. He stressed the need to strengthen relations between the two Muslim countries and expand cooperation between Iran and Kuwait in various fields.

## Khamene'i Names Mortazawi New Police Chief

*LD0107195890 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA—Colonel Aminollah Mortazawi was appointed as the new police chief and promoted to the rank of brigadier-general, replacing Brigadier-General Reza Nik-Nejad. The appointment proposed by Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri was approved by the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Ayatollah Khamene'i lauded the outgoing police chief and expressed hope that policemen would carry out their duties with dedication as expected from the police of the Islamic revolution.

## Reportage on Quake, Relief Efforts, Foreign Aid

### UN Official Conveys Condolences

*NC2606113190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Jun 90*

[Text] The UN secretary general's special representative on the Afghanistan problem met and talked with Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati yesterday afternoon. During this meeting, Mr. Sevan conveyed the secretary general's condolences on the recent tragic earthquake to the people and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He informed Mr. Velayati of the United Nations' readiness to extend various kinds of help.

Mr. Sevan then reported on the latest developments and the international exchange of views on the Afghanistan problem, and praised the Islamic Republic's efforts to resolve this problem.

Expressing thanks for the sympathy offered by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Mr. Velayati stated the Islamic Republic's principled position on the Afghanistan problem and expressed hopes that the current talks between the Islamic Unity Party and the Afghan mujahidin based in Peshawar will lead to unity among the Muslim Afghan mujahidin and prepare the necessary grounds for just and healthy elections in Afghanistan.

### Foreign Condolences Continue

*LD2906211690 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 29 Jun 90*

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA—Foreign heads of state and dignitaries continue to cable condolence messages to Iranian officials a week after the severe quake which rocked parts of northwestern Iran.

The latest messages to Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived from President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique and the chairman of the Supreme Presidium of the Soviet Republic of Latvia.

Also, director general of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Hiroshi Nakajima and U.N. special envoy Galindo Pohl sent messages to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in this regard.

The Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman sent a condolence cable to his Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

Similar messages were received from the director general of the OPEC fund, the director general of the United Nation's Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), and various personalities and groups in Kuwait.

In Colombo, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, the only Muslim political party in the parliament expressed its "deep sympathy and condolences on behalf of all Sri Lankan Muslims to the people and government of Iran" on the earthquake disaster.

### Further Relief Supplies Arrive

*LD3006085490 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA—A caravan of 19 trucks carrying donations by the Muslim people of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan arrived in Iran via Astara border on Friday.

The donations include heaters, vegetable oil, soap, canned fruit, tea, sugar, detergent, water tanks, noodles, tents, clothings and utensils.

Meanwhile, a sum of poinds 73,000 has been deposited in a special account with the London branch of the Bank Melli by Friday afternoon [29 June] for the survivors of the June 21 devastating earthquake in northern and northeastern Iran.

Iran Air has put one of its Boeing 747 at the disposal of the British Red Cross to airlift 100 tons of relief supplies including medicines, tents and blankets to the quake-stricken victims. The contingent which includes cash and material donations of the public, is larger and more valuable than the three previous contingents and will be flown to Tehran on Monday [2 July].

According to a British Red Cross official this is the first time that the relief supplies of the organisation are airlifted on board a Boeing 747.

In a related development, the second contingent of the relief supplies including medicines, collected by the Muslim students association in India was sent to Tehran from Bombay on Friday.

In a similar move the Japanese government officials, commercial companies and private citizens have donated dlrs. 230,000 as well as seven heavy machineries during the past few days.

Furthermore, the Japanese students in Yokohama have donated dlrs. 1,000 to the quake victims.

### Red Crescent Head Discusses Relief

*LD3006105190 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Zanjan, June 30 IRNA—More than RLS. [rials] 1.5 billion (dlrs. 21.4 million) have been deposited by public with the bank account of the Red Crescent Society throughout the country to provide relief supplies to the victims of the killer quake of June 21 and to reconstruct the damaged areas, said director general of the Red Crescent Society Seifollah Vahid Dastjerdi here Saturday.

As for the items in immediate demand in the quake-stricken areas of Zanjan and Gilan Provinces, he said there is an urgend need for 50,000 tents adding that dlrs.

three million has been proposed for supply of 30,000 tents. The plan is to purchase 30,000 tents from Pakistan and 20,000 from the domestic suppliers.

Dastjerdi currently in an inspection tour of this quake-stricken province, added that in the light of the approaching cold winter in the mountainous areas in the quake-stricken areas, the society needed 80,000 pre-fabricated houses for temporary settlement of the survivors. He urged the Ministries of Housing and Urban Development, Construction Jihad and Industries to take immediate steps in this connection.

So far, more than 100 aircraft carrying medicine, medical supplies, foodstuff and other items donated by the Red Cross and Red Cresent Societies, international organisations, and foreign nations and governments have landed in Tehran, he said.

Relief supplies donated by the sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf especially that of Kuwait still continue, he added. The first contingent of Kuwaiti relief supplies are to be airlifted Saturday on a chartered plane.

### Qatari Envoy Expresses Sympathy

*LD3006121890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 90*

[Text] The new ambassador of Qatar to our country was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning, and while presenting his credentials, informed Rafsanjani of the amir of Qatar's sympathy with the victims of the earthquake.

The Central News Unit reports that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his appreciation for the various countries' sincere sympathy with the victims of the quake, in particular those from the countries of the region. He said: The cancellation of the official ceremonies for 'Id al-Adha in Kuwait and The United Arab Emirates as a sign of solidarity with our afflicted people and as a sign of sympathy with the victims of that tragedy had a considerable effect on the morale of our country's people. We believe any action which is taken to bring closer together the sentiments, feelings, and mutual respect for each other's rights and dignity helps to create unity and solidarity in the region, and is to the interest of Islam and the Muslims.

The president, while conveying reciprocal greetings to the Qatar government's amir, expressed the hope that through the Islamic countries of the Persian Gulf's friendly relations and mutual cooperation, we can witness the increasing expansion and strengthening of ties between the Islamic states in the region. You, as the ambassador of the Qatar government, have an important responsibility.

Mr. 'Ali Bin Abdallah Bin Zeydan Mahmudi, the new Qatar ambassador, also presented the most respectful greetings of the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Bin-Hamad Al Thani, to the president and said: The two countries' relations are based on religion, goodneighborly ties, and mutual interests. God willing, and with the support of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I will make efforts to safeguard the two countries' relations and those existing between the two nations.

### Velayati Thanks Islamic Envoys

*LD3006141190 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday thanked the sympathy and solidarity expressed by the Islamic countries with the Iranian people in the aftermath of the deadly June 21 earthquake. Addressing a group of the ambassadors of Islamic countries who had called on the minister, Velayati said that such sympathy and solidarity "stem from the eternal and life-giving teachings of Islam", adding that Muslims would rush to help each other at such time of need. The "heart-breaking incident" of earthquake in Iran proved that Muslims, "in spite of the plots of enemies of Islam, do maintain their solidarity," the foreign minister noted.

"I am confident that this spirit will not be confined to the time of hardships but will manifest itself in different forms in the future leaving positive impacts on our relations with all Islamic countries," Velayati stressed.

Prior to Velayati's speech, the Palestine ambassador Salah Zawawi, speaking as the dean of the diplomatic corps, said that Islamic countries shared the grief of the Muslim Iranians in the disastrous incident. He added that Islamic countries would put all their facilities at the disposal of their brothers in faith in Iran. Zawawi noted that Muslim states were convinced that the Iranian nation and its wise leadership would overcome this painful hardship.

### Situation Updated 30 Jun

*LD3006142190 Tehran IRNA in English 1053 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Zanjan, June 30 IRNA—Supply of drinking water in 25 quake-stricken villages in the Tarom-Olya region in this northwestern province was resumed Thursday [28 June], a week after a devastating earthquake hit the area.

The work was accomplished by the Construction Jihad Ministry staff who also completed dredging and reconstructing 30 canals making possible irrigation of 7,000 hectares of rice paddies in the area.

Meanwhile, 243 quake victims, including 60 orphans, from 50 families in the region who are left with no care taker have been put under the protection of the provincial welfare organisation, said the organisation head Karamzadeh to IRNA here Friday [29 June]. According to the official, a large number of the injured are paralyzed who are to be sent to four centers for the disabled in Tehran.

Presently the organisation, Karamzadeh noted, has 6,000 families totalling 13,000 people, with no caretaker under its protection.

In a related report from Rudbar, the hardest hit city in the northern Gilan Province, over 90 percent of rice fields in the quake-stricken areas which were perishing after the quake, have been rehabilitated, a representative of the Agricultural Ministry, Shaf'i, told IRNA. He also added that harvest of grain in 19,000 hectares of land in the area is to be started soon.

Shaf'i further pointed that only 20 villages out of the existing 240 ones in the region have remained intact in the quake adding, the region had an overall one million livestocks and that presently efforts are underway to collect the surviving animals, bury the carcasses, disinfect the area and find ways to compensate for the losses.

Meanwhile, Friday prayer ceremonies were held in Rudbar eight days after the disastrous quake. The congregational ceremonies were attended by a group of rescue workers, authorities and families of the victims and was addressed by the city's Friday prayer leader Hojat ol-Eslam Vahedi Damghani. Expressing gratitude for all help rendered by the Iranians and foreign countries, he stressed the need for continuation of such contributions. Also underlining that winter is on the way, he urged the authorities to take immediate measures to provide the required food and shelter to the residents.

In another development, the Iranian national soccer team arranged a friendly match in Azadi stadium in the capital Friday to raise fund for the quake victim. A total of Rls. [Rials] 16 million (about dlrs. 228,000) was collected through the tickets and donations made by the soccer fans.

### France Offers Aid

*LD3006170290 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Paris, June 30, IRNA—The French premier's deputy Bernard Kouchner said here Saturday that his government is ready to offer all sorts of help to Iran for reconstructing quake-stricken areas in the northwestern parts. Kouchner who visited Iran immediately after the earthquake struck, told IRNA that a group of French experts are to fly to Tehran next week to assess the best kind of help they can offer. He expressed hope that the entirety of Europe would extend a helping hand to Iran.

The Frenchman noted that his government has already conferred with its allies in Europe in this regard, and said France hopes to be the first country to help Iran in reconstructing the ruined areas.

He said he had been in Iran shortly after the catastrophe and had observed that the Iranian officials sent all foreign teams to quake-stricken areas within the shortest possible time and without any preference for any specific team over others.

Kouchner rejected rumours aired by certain foreign media about Iran's having shown prejudice for or against this or that group of relief workers on matters of nationality or other considerations.

### IRNA Details Additional Aid

*LD3006201590 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA—A second field hospital with 50 beds was set up by a Pakistani medical team in Rudbar for the earthquake survivors.

The field hospital run by 75 Pakistani physicians and relief workers has surgery, orthopedy, pathology, radiology and blood transfusion wards.

Meanwhile, the 24th convoy of relief aids donated by the Government and people of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan for the victims of the quake disaster arrived in Iran and headed for the quake-stricken areas Saturday.

The convoy includes 31 truck-loads of foodstuff, medicines, tents, electric appliances and construction materials weighing 300 tons.

The convey is accompanied by a group of technicians and officials of the republic.

Also the fifth aid convoy from the Soviet Republic of Nakichevan consisting of 38 trucks crossed the Jolfa border today.

Soviet Azerbaijan Muslims also donated a cash of dlrs. 600,000. [sentence as received]

The Thailand Government announced that it will send 500 tons of rice. Meanwhile several Thai companies gave substantial amounts of blood bags, medicine, surgical equipments and syringes to the Embassy of Iran in Bangkok.

The aids of the South Korean companies, governmental and private institutes came through their red cross society. It is consisting of a cash of dlrs. 180,000 [as received], and a large amount of textiles, cloths, torches, tents and surgical gloves.

The Malaysian Embassy in Tehran presented dlrs. 100,000 [as received] worth of goods for the quake survivors.

### Karrubi Thanks Pakistan for Aid

*LD3006202290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] Mr. Shemshad Ahmad Khan, Pakistan's ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, met Majles Speaker Karrubi this morning, and conveyed the smpathy of the Pakistani nation, government, and parliament to the Iranian nation for the tragic occurrence of the earthquake. The Majles speaker then said: After the domestic support of the people inside the country, international sympathy was very important for our people and government. Among the countries the people and government of which have shown the utmost kindness and sympathy in this period has been the Pakistani Government and people. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

Later in the meeting, bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest to the two Islamic countries of Iran and Pakistan were discussed.

## Soviet Azerbaijan Offers Aid

*LD0107005390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Jun 90*

[Text] According to IRNA, in a meeting this morning between the special envoy of the president and prime minister of Soviet Azerbaijan with the governor general of Zanjan, which took place in the governor general's office, the special envoy of the president and prime minister of Soviet Azerbaijan expressed sympathy with the grief-stricken people of Zanjan and submitted a message of condolences from the president, government, and Muslim people of that Republic to the governor general of Zanjan. He said: The government of Soviet Azerbaijan has declared a day of mourning in the republic to express its sympathy, and the people of the republic their sympathy by wearing black and holding mourning ceremonies.

Zanjan's governor general expressed gratitude for the expression of sympathy and the assistance of the people and government of Soviet Azerbaijan, and said that one of the urgent needs of the earthquake-stricken areas of Gilan and Zanjan Provinces is for 100,000 prefabricated houses, to provide winter shelter for those who have suffered losses. The special envoy of the president the prime minister of Soviet Azerbaijan conveyed his country's readiness to provide part of the prefabricated housing, of the wooden variety, with full facilities.

## Azerbaijan Volunteers To Rebuild

*LD0107105890 Tehran IRNA in English 0927 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Zanjan, July 1, IRNA—The Soviet republic of Azerbaijan has volunteered to build hospitals, educational centers, nursery schools, brick plants and prefabricated wooden houses for the quake survivors, said special envoy of the President and Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Husseinov here Saturday.

100,000 prefabricated houses to shelter the quake survivors in winter is among the urgent needs of the quake stricken areas.

Husseinov who is here heading a relief team in a meeting with Governor General of Zanjan Province Seyyed Ja'-afar Mousavi conveyed condolences and sympathies of the president, the government and the people of the republic over the devastating quake of June 21 which killed at least 40,000, injured 60,000 and made half a million people homeless.

He added that a ship laden with 200 tons of goods and one hundred trucks loaded with foodstuff, clothings, medicines and other necessities are on their way to Iran. The contingents are expected to reach Iran by the end of this week.

According to Husseinov the republic has sent 100 specialized physicians together with 60 ambulances and medical equipment to Gilan and Zanjan provinces which have suffered massive losses and damage in the quake.

Husseinov who is also deputy health minister of the republic said that medical centers in the republic volunteer to treat the injured and take care of the orphans.

Meanwhile, a Soviet delegation of 59 physicians, relief, mining and construction experts arrived here Saturday along with three truck loads of medicines, medical supplies and special oxygen units to be used to help those entrapped receive oxygen until they are rescued.

The value of the donated goods are estimated at rubles 50,000 and the rescue equipment at $40,000.

Also, a medical relief team including four physicians arrived in Tehran from Libya Friday. This is the third Libyan plane arriving in Tehran since the devastating earthquake of June 21.

Two other planes carrying tents, blankets and medicine landed in Tehran earlier in the week.

## More Bodies Retrieved in Zanjan

*LD0107085790 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA—Another 35 bodies were retrieved out of the debris in the quake stricken province of Zanjan, said an official from the health and sanitation committee of Zanjan's relief headquarters Saturday. Twenty-two of the bodies were pulled out in Fafazan region of Takistan and 13 in Tarom Olya, Torom Sofla and Roudbar-e Alamot, in Zanjan Province. All the bodies were buried in according with the religious rituals, he said.

Meanwhile 1,727 people injured in the devastating quake of June 21 have been hospitalized at six medical centers of Zanjan. Out of the number 1,513 have been released and only 214 continue to remain in hospitals, he added.

Presently, he said five medical teams comprising 43 physicians and paramedics from the Soviet republics of Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan are helping the Iranian medical staff at the quake stricken areas of Zanjan Province.

In the meantime, villagers in the quake stricken areas of the Caspian province of Gilan are highly concerned about their agricultural crops and livestocks. An average of 30 heads of cows are dying every day due to lack of proper animal feed, said a relief worker in Rudbar. The villages are asking the government to buy their livestocks which otherwise will perish. Livestocks and cows especially are among the main holdings of the farmers in Gilan region.

Two cows were taken out of debris alive on Saturday in a village near Rudbar ten days after the catastrophic earthquake hit the area.

### Foreign Aid Continues To Arrive

*LD0107085190 Tehran IRNA in English 0659 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA—Foreign relief packages and medical aids for the victims of the disastrous earthquake which took a toll of at least 100,000 casualties in northern and northwestern Iran on June 21, continue to pour into Iran.

The Singapore Government announced that its Red Cross will donate $20,000 to Iran's Red Crescent.

The Government of West Germany on Saturday [30 June] sent 1,400 kg. of medical aids.

Two aircraft carrying donations by the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates containing foodstuffs, medical aids, tents, blankets and clothings left Abu Dhabi for Tehran Saturday.

Also, the eighth Pakistani aircraft carrying 35 tons of goods for the earthquake victims arrived in Tehran Friday.

An aircraft carrying donations by the American nonprofit organisation of 'Americare' left for Tehran Saturday. The 40-ton contingent of mainly medical aids is worth $2 million. Americare had earlier sent a contingent of $1.7 [as received] in relief aid and a third one is expected to be sent soon.

Meanwhile, the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' reported that the Yugoslav enterprises in Tehran have donated 5.5 million rials (about $78,000) in cash and $60,000 in material aid.

Furthermore, 'Islamic Relief', a Muslim charity organisation based in Britain, is to send its first package of 150,000 pounds on board an Iran airplane on July 4. A Muslim has accepted to pay the cost of the transportation.

Another Muslim relief charity, the London-based 'Muslim Aid', which initially donated 15,000 pounds is hopeful to collect up to 30,000 pounds by Monday when Muslims will be taking part in the 'Eid al-Adha' prayers, Hani Habashi ,one of the charity's officials told IRNA Saturday.

'Muslim Youth Movement', is planning to collect up to 10,000 pounds by organising a sports tournament.

The earthquake fund of the 'INDEPENDENT' newspaper in Britain had topped 100,000 pounds by Friday [29 June], the paper's editor told IRNA adding that he wants the money raised to be used to establish a school or medical center in the quake-stricken area. He added that the appeal will run for four weeks and they are hoping it will get up to a figure of between one hundred and two hundred thousand pounds.

### More Aftershocks Hit 30 Jun

*LD0107114190 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA—Three more after-shocks on Saturday jolted the north and northwestern Iran where a vast area was reduced to ruines and thousands were killed in the devastating quake on June 21.

The after-shocks, recorded by Tehran University's Geophysics Center, measured 3.8, 4.1 and 4.2 degress on the open-ended Richter Scale. They jolted the area at 8:30 (05:00 GMT), 14:40 (11:10 GMT) and 19:55 (16:25 GMT) hours local time respectively.

The epicenter of the after-shocks were 200 kms northwest of the Geophysics Center.

Geologists in the center believe that the declining number of the after-shocks indicates that the Earth's plates are stabilizing in the quake-stricken region.

### Editorial on Relief, Foreign Aid

*NC0107115490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Jun 90 pp 2,3*

[Editorial: "A Nation Responds to Colossal Tragedy"]

[Text] Nature has no favorites and is not in the least selective. When just past midnight on Wednesday [20 June] an earthquake measuring well over 7 points on the Richter scale struck Iran, few in the capital realized the enormity of the calamity that swept over the northwestern parts of the country that were worst affected by the gigantic shock. As news began to trickle in, the nation was at first stunned by this tragedy which by early counts so far has left over 32,000 dead and countless thousands injured in the wake of enormous damage to several cities and towns.

As Muslims we believe that God tries us both in adversity and prosperity and that His ways are mysterious. In his very first response to the news of the shattering earthquake, Leader Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said, and rightly so, that "it is a test of God." As a Muslim nation, we have to live up to this test and that is exactly what millions throughout the country, and in the capital closer to us, are now endeavoring to do.

Without wasting a moment all organizations have been mobilized to render help and assistance to the quake stricken areas. Blood transfusion centers in Tehran and cities throughout the country are crowded with queues of people, young and old of both sexes, lining up to donate blood to injured victims, the more serious of whom are being ferried across to the capital for treatment and attention. The Red Crescent Society—Iran's version of the International Red Cross—in Iran has mustered all its resources to dispatch urgent supplies of food, clothing, provisions and essential items needed to help the victims in the disaster areas. Muslims and non-Muslims, in fact every sector of society, have been continuously streaming in with donations.

Volunteers both civilians and from the nation's peacetime army are moving to the towns and cities in the northwestern areas. Every conceivable means of transport from trucks and vannettes [small pickup trucks] to cars are being manned by these volunteers to collect and transport the urgently required goods to centers which are being established in the earthquake areas.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has given the necessary instructions to Friday prayer leaders to take a lead in the effort to mobilize rescue work in every one of the communities in which their congregations are to be found. In fact the leader promptly went over to view for himself the scene of the sad devastation from the air.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has ordered the setting up of a headquarters in his office to coordinate all relief activities. He has also dispatched a number of ministers to the affected areas so that they would personally be able to supervise the relief operations.

The armed forces have shown a special interest in this peacetime duty of theirs and have been at rendering [as published] all possible assistance to their brothers and sisters in quake-hit areas.

A word, we cannot forget, of gratitude and thanks in this moment of affliction faced by the nation, to all those countries, organizations and individuals across the world who have responded splendidly with sympathy and ready offers of help to those affected in this tragic quake.

God's message is that we should be steadfast in our unity at all times and realize the human dignity in our lives given to us for fulfilment of a greater spiritual purpose. Our nation is now demonstrating itself in deeds of sacrifice for those who have sacrificed themselves as God has destined and we pray for the peace in the Hereafter for all those who have been taken up in the Arms of the Wise Creator. From God we come and to him is our return.

### Soviet Ambulance Train Arrives

*LD0107123290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] A train carrying doctors, and medical and relief equipment—calling itself an ambulance train—was sent to Iran from Soviet Azerbaijan today, so as to aid the victims of the earthquake tragedy in our country. According to the Central News Unit, that train is fitted with an operating theater, a pharmacy, hospital beds, and stretchers. It was manufactured by Soviet Azerbaijani railway technicians, in which process medical equipment was used. The staff in the ambulance train is comprised of surgeons, specialists in dressing wounds, a number of mechanical and electrical engineers and technicians, and medical and hygiene staff. The train carries an electricity generator that enables the surgeons to carry out surgical operations throughout the night. It also supplies the electricity needs of the neighboring residential areas during its sojourn.

### More Aftershocks Hit Gilan 1 Jul

*LD0107161890 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Rudbar (Gilan), July 1, IRNA—Two more aftershocks, the first one measuring 5.1 degrees on the Richter Scale shook Gilan province at 15:55 and 16:06 hours local time (12:25 and 12:36 GMT) Sunday.

There is still no report on possible casualties or damage of the first aftershock which lasted three seconds.

On June 21, an earthquake measuring 7.3 degrees on the Richter Scale rocked Gilan and Zanjan provinces, and since then the region has felt 300 aftershocks of varying degrees.

If seismographers are to be believed the aftershocks will last for two months.

### USSR To Cooperate in Seismography

*LD0107162190 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA—Soviet experts are to cooperate with Iran in the field of geology and seismography. A two-day seminar on technology of remote sensing survey in the USSR and its application, which opened here Sunday, underlined importance of up-to-date data and its sound application.

In his address to the seminar, Deputy of the Plan and Budget Organisation Masud Davari-Nejad regretted that over the years modern equipment for remote sensing was not properly employed in Iran. He stressed that speedy measures should be taken regarding remote sensing survey in Iran and its proper application.

Davari-Nejad noting Soviet experiences in quake-related matters, hoped that Iran could utilise Soviet researches. He added that the seminar could shed further light on many avenues of cooperation between the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union in this vital field of science.

The seminar also heard V.I. Gumnin of the Soviet state centre for geodesy and cartography, elaborate on space surveys of the earth for study of natural resources and environment in the Soviet Union.

Earlier on Saturday, a delegation from the Soviet Soyuzkarta company met Davari-Nejad. Senior company executive, L.G. Suslonov said that his team was here to exchange views with Iranian experts on the application of remote satellite sensing and vertical changes in the earth. Suslonov said that the Soviet Union has conducted many research works in the field of earthquake which could be made available to Iran.

### Yazdi Condemns Exploitation

*LD0107172190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] A meeting of judiciary officials was held today in the presence of Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judiciary. In the meeting, Mr. Yazdi said regarding the recent earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan: Such events are divine tests and fortunately, our noble nation passed the test with its head held high. The head of the judiciary stressed the fact that the enemies and opponents of the holy system of Islam do not even refrain from their mischiefmaking in the middle of tragedies and said: What causes suprise in such heartrending incidents is the issue of discord. The opponents of the regime even in this national incident exploit the people's humanitarian sentiments and make propaganda against the Islamic Republic's people and system.

He added: Let the enemies and opponents of the Islamic Republic's system know that such propaganda and ploys will no longer have any effect in our Islamic society.

Mr. Yazdi expressed satisfaction about the seminar of judiciary officials from throughout the country during Justice Week and said: Its results will be used in the near future and its decisions and ratifications will be effective for the judicial system. The head of the judiciary referred to the establishment of mobile courts in the earthquake regions in the north and northwest of the country, and said: Especially in accordance with the guidance of the eminent leader, these courts ought to deliver their services more actively and more noticably on the scene of the incident. Giving a warning to the society's offenders and criminals, he said: The courts will deal severely with them and without exception. Mr. Yazdi stressed that the courts would be held in public and said: In view of the people's good reception of Qom's revolution tribunal, it is announced to all the country's tribunals and courts to act toward holding open court session for suitable cases.

### No 'Id Celebrations Due to Mourning

*LD0107201390 Tehran IRNA in English 1807 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA—The cabinet declared today that no official ceremony or celebration would be held for 'Id al-Adha (July 3), as a mark of respect for the bereaved people who lost their dear ones in the June 21 earthquake.

It also heard Agriculture Minister Isa Kalantari giving a report on the activities of his ministry in the quake-hit region regarding preservation of surviving livestock, irrigation of farmlands and harvest of crops.

Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, too, briefed the cabinet on the issues pertinent to the repair and rebuilding of educational centers destroyed or heavily damaged by the quake.

Following the devastating earthquake which killed many farms, the Agriculture Ministry assigned special teams to handle the affairs of farmlands and rice paddies in Gilan and Zanjan Provinces which were worst hit by the quake.

### Karrubi Attends Deputy's Funeral

*NC0207082890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] A spectacular funeral ceremony was held yesterday afternoon by the Majlis leadership at Ark Mosque in Tehran for the late Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hoseyn Eftekhari, the Fuman people's deputy, to praise his service to the Majles. The Central News Unit reports that during this ceremony, which was attended by Majles Speaker Mr. Karrubi and a large number of civilian and Armed Forces' officials, one of the members of the Majles leadership lauded the services rendered by the late Eftekhari. The Fuman people's deputy was killed on Wednesday [26 June] in an air crash during relief operations to the villagers in the quake-stricken Kelishom area.

### Paper Criticizes U.S. Aid

*NC0207182290 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 2 Jul 90*

[Text] Tehran, July 2 (AFP)—A newspaper close to hardliners in Iran on Monday condemned Washington's assistance after last month's earthquake and criticised those it said were supporting the "return of the American great Satan."

The editorial in KEYHAN was the latest blow in a war of words in the press and parliament over the government's decision to accept aid from the United States, Saudi Arabia and other countries with which Iran has frosty relations.

On Monday, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent messages to the leaders of more than 70 countries thanking them for their contributions. But according to Tehran Radio, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Gulf war enemy Iraq, which all sent aid despite having no diplomatic relations with Iran, were not among those to whom Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed gratitude.

Anti-Western hardliners fear that acceptance of such an outpouring of aid will lower Iran's guard against foreign influence and lend weight to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's advocacy of a more flexible attitude to the outside world.

KEYHAN criticised "those who through innocence, fear or premeditated action favour the return of the American great Satan" and said it was "vital" for them to "recall the crimes committed by the Americans and Saudis."

"The United States which claims to share the distress of the earthquake victims sent a million and a half dollars in cash and material wrapped in American flags," the newspaper said.

"Certain pens are dripping ink in their eagerness to say that since the disaster touched the hearts of those in the White House, (Iranians) should welcome with open arms the American humanitarian gestures," it added.

KEYHAN indirectly attacked an editorial last week in its English-language sister newspaper KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, which had denounced another hardline paper, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, for condemning the U.S. assistance.

"Using the pretext of the victims' pain, a journalist attacked a colleague who had revealed the fallacious face of America, and tried to pretend that radical journalists had brought the isolation of Iran," KEYHAN said.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL had written June 26 that it was "very selfish of a newspaperman to sit in his air-conditioned office in Tehran with his family intact and ask survivors to say 'Down with America'."

The earthquake on June 21 left around 40,000 people dead, 60,000 injured and half a million homeless in the northwestern Gilan and Zanjan Provinces.

Iran accepted aid from all countries expect Israel and South Africa.

### 2 Jul Aftershocks Center on Rudbar

*LD0307090490 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 3 Jul 90*

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Three tremors measuring 3.5 to 4.2 degrees on the Richter Scale Monday [2 July] jolted areas 200 kms northwest of here. Tehran University Geophysics Center said the epicenter of the tremors which occurred at 10:01, 19:55, 21:15 hours local time (06:31, 16:25, 17:45 GMT) was the quake-hit town of Rudbar, in Gilan Province.

Gilan and Zanjan Provinces were rocked on June 21 by a killer earthquake that measured 7.3 degrees on the Richter Scale and killed and wounded tens of thousands of people. More than 300 aftershocks have shaken the quake-stricken regions since the June 21 quake.

## Sri Lanka

### Air Force Rescues Soldiers in Jaffna Fort

*BK0307022890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0219 GMT 3 Jul 90*

[Text] Colombo, July 3 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Air Force Tuesday [3 July] rescued 17 army soldiers wounded and trapped inside a fort in Jaffna, breaking through a 23-day-old siege of a military garrison there by Tamil guerrillas. The 17, out of a total of 201 soldiers and policemen besieged inside the Dutch-built fort on the outskirts of the northern town, were airlifted in a daring operation, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. (SLBC) said.

"The Air Force also successfully provided a large consignment of essentials such as food and medicines to the fort," the state-run radio said.

The radio said "Operation Eagle" succeeded despite coming under heavy attack from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), whose guerrillas laid siege to the 17th-century fort since fighting erupted in Sri Lanka on June 11. It did not say whether anyone was wounded in the rescue operation.

No further details were immediately available.

### Spokesman on Rescue, Breaking Siege

*BK0307040690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0334 GMT 3 Jul 90*

[Text] Colombo, July 3 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Air Force Tuesday [3 July] broke through a 23-day-old suffocating siege of a Dutch fort by Tamil rebels, rescuing about 10 seriously wounded soldiers in a daring operation, a spokesman said. A U.S.-made Bell 412 helicopter rescued the 10 after landing in the Jaffna Fort, in the island's north, despite heavy fire from Tamil guerrillas virtually ringing the 17th-century structure, an Air Force spokesman here said. About four to five other helicopters and jets provided cover to the helicopter that landed in the fort, constantly firing back at guerrillas of the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), he said.

The spokesman said the operation, codenamed "Eagle," was planned and executed by the Air Force, which also Tuesday provided a large quantity of food and medical aid to the fort without suffering any casualty or damage.

The spokesman denied a report by the state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. (SLBC) that all the 17 wounded, out of a group of 201 soldiers and police trapped in the fort since the siege began June 11, were rescued. He said the Air Force's aim was only to rescue the seriously wounded men needing surgery and hospitalisation. "We feel it is a matter of prestige to the Air Force to have completed this operation without any casualty or damage."

The spokesman called the mission "a major blow" to the LTTE, whose diehard fighters had been firing hundreds of rockets, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades into the Jaffna Fort since fighting erupted in Sri Lanka on June 11. He gave no further details of Operation Eagle.

An Asian diplomat said the rescue would give Colombo a major boost in its military campaign against the LTTE, whose renewed separatist war shattered some 14 months of peace talks between the two sides.

"The fact that this could be conducted will help overcome the siege mentality that gripped (Colombo)," the diplomat said. Another Western diplomat added that it would "undoubtedly temper the LTTE morale."

The Air Force spokesman said that the LTTE had "lost another chance" of coming to terms with the Sri Lankan Government by not permitting the rescue of the seriously wounded men in the Jaffna Fort.

Tuesday's operation followed days of intense air attacks and strafing of areas in the vicinity of the majestic Jaffna Fort, which the LTTE said had left scores of houses and other buildings in the town damaged or destroyed. It also came a day after Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne announced here that Colombo's offensive against the Tigers was "a fight to the finish" aimed at crushing terrorism in this Indian ocean island nation.

On Sunday [1 July], the LTTE, whose unending firing had prevented the army and air force from supplying adequate food and medicine to the 201 men, cut water lines to the Jaffna Fort in an apparent attempt to starve those inside to death.

## Student Group To Boycott Parliament Session

*BK0107160290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jul 90*

[Text] The Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students—EROS—has decided to boycott the forthcoming session of the Sri Lankan Parliament from the 5th of this month. In an appeal to President Premadasa signed by nine MP's [members of Parliament] from Northeast issued in Colombo today, EROS has said that no useful purpose will be served in their continuing to be mute spectators in Parliament, while thousands of civilians are being killed in the present war. They have urged the president for immediate negotiations with parties concerned for the restoration of peace and normalcy.